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Protest guidelines anger student groups

By WILL ANDERSON
Editor-in-Chief

Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez recently released the University's Interim Student Guidelines for the Protection of Public Expression, angering student groups that argue the guidelines encroach on free expression.

The guidelines have sparked a debate over the University's role in on-campus protests, the document's confusing language and whether the University can place "guidelines" on free expression.

What are the guidelines?

The document outlines several policies that activist groups "should follow" or "should consider," like the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement's (SLI) event planning guide.

The University has the right to restrict the "time, place and manner" of protests, especially if they interrupt other students' right to free expression or any educational activities.

The guidelines assert that students have a right to dissent and to freedom of expression. But they do not have the automatic right to use University spaces, which are

not places of unrestricted public access.

If protesters threaten passersby, if they damage Hopkins property, if they block entry or exit from buildings or if they occupy parts of campus without authorization, the University may take action.

Registered demonstrations will be assigned an official University liaison, who will ensure that student groups are aware of pertinent policies and the "health and safety" of protesters.

"It's not intended to squelch protests at all."

— TERRY MARTINEZ,
DEAN OF
STUDENT LIFE

In the final "considerations" paragraph of the guidelines, student groups are strongly encouraged to follow the document.

To avoid an escalated security response by campus Safety and Security and/or the involvement of the Baltimore Police Department, students and/or student organization[s] should follow the various campus policies mentioned throughout the document," it states.

Much of the confusion surrounding the guidelines stems from Martinez's accidental release of an earlier version of the document, which concerned student groups argued was
SEE GUIDELINES, PAGE A4



Members of Refuel Our Future, the student-led fossil fuel divestment campaign, staged a demonstration before the forum began.

Should the University divest from fossil fuels?

By MORGAN OME
Layout Editor

A panel of four experts discussed the ethical and financial consequences of divesting the University's endowment from fossil fuel companies.

Refuel Our Future, a student activist group, has been pressuring the University for six years to divest. The Provost's Office organized the forum on Monday to help inform the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC), which will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

Refuel submitted a proposal to PIIAC in 2015 calling on the University and has been waiting to hear back since. Refuel members staged a demonstration outside Hodson Hall before the forum began.

Demonstrators chanted "Divest the nest" and held signs with slogans like "Vote yes on divestment." Many wore orange, the color of the divestment movement.

Administrators who attended the forum included University President Ronald J. Daniels and Provost Sunil Kumar. When they made their way from Garland Hall to Hodson, the demonstrators fell silent.

At the beginning of the discussion, moderator and Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Paul Ferraro explained the University's history of divestment: a partial divestment in 1985 from South African companies during apartheid and a full divestment from tobacco in 1991.

He said that the Uni-

versity needs to take both economic and moral arguments into consideration when making the final decision. He hoped the panelists would shed light on two key questions.

"Should Johns Hopkins divest from fossil fuels?" he asked. "And if we are going to divest, how do we do it?"

Panelist Ellen Dorsey, executive director of the Wallace Global Fund, a private foundation that has fully divested from fossil fuels, argued that

the University has a responsibility to the world and its students.

"Johns Hopkins University should divest its assets from the largest fossil fuel companies not just for moral reasons, but also for financial and fiduciary reasons," she said. "You have an opportunity to divest and to do this in partnership with your students and [be] consistent with your mission."

She emphasized that in addition to ending fossil fuels, argued that
SEE DIVESTMENT, PAGE A6

CSC connects students to service in Baltimore



FILE PHOTO

Since 1992, the CSC has supported volunteering in local communities.

By VALERIE CHAVEZ
Staff Writer

Over the past 25 years, the Center for Social Concern (CSC) has served as the University's primary resource for students interested in community service in Baltimore.

While there are currently a number of programs designed to engage students with the community, the University has historically had a tense and complicated relationship with Baltimore.

Senior Assistant Director of Neighborhood and Community Programs at the CSC Abby Neyenhouse explained that Hopkins can give back to Baltimore in a respectful way.

"We have to be mindful and cognizant of the reputation of the University and people's opinions," Neyenhouse said. "I think we try to be as intentional and mindful as we can in developing our programming so we're not reinforcing the stereo-

types of the institution."

Junior Tarah Fitzgerald, the vice president of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a community service co-ed fraternity, said that students and the University have a responsibility to use their privilege for a greater cause.

"We have a duty to do what we can," Fitzgerald said. "And that doesn't mean we are going in with a savior complex. It means we are going in as community partners. We're going in as educated and open-minded."

Neyenhouse added that the CSC attempts to create positive relationships within Baltimore. She said that it tries to build its programming around the idea of "mutually beneficial relationships."

"Volunteerism shouldn't just be about our students gaining things, but it should be about... making an impact where we can, and both sides are gaining from the
SEE CSC, PAGE A5

Daniels stands by his administration's decisions

By ROLLIN HU
& SAM FOSSUM
News & Features Editors

In an interview with *The News-Letter* on Tuesday, University President Ronald J. Daniels discussed the current political climate, ongoing labor and divestment campaigns on campus and the relationship between the administration and the student body.

Contract workers controversy

Over the past semester, the Student-Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) has led several demonstrations where students, union representatives and con-

tract workers demanded that the University guarantee improved benefits for dining workers and security guards.

SLAC's demands include a \$15 per hour minimum wage, a guarantee that they will not lose their jobs if the University switches contractors and a program similar to Live Near Your Work, which assists faculty and staff in finding housing close to Hopkins.

Contract workers are not directly hired by Hopkins but are instead employed by third-party contractors.

Daniels said that contract workers should be treated well by their direct employers.

"It's the University's responsibility to ensure that the vendors whom we deal with... understand that we want the workers they employ to be treated fairly and equitably and that they should receive a competitive wage," he said.

However, Daniels emphasized that the administration should not be involved with the wage negotiations between contract companies and their workers.

"There is sometimes an expectation that the University should take a position in these negotiations, and I am concerned that would subvert the integrity of the collective bargaining

process," he said.

For Daniels, it is not the University's role to intervene in discussions on raising contract workers' minimum wage to \$15 per hour. He referred to a meeting between Bon Appetit and the dining workers' union on March 31.

"There was a collective bargaining process and the parties arrived at a set of wage improvements," he said. "That's an area where... there has been direct negotiation and a clear understanding reached. I am loathe to wade into that particular issue."

Daniels explained that the University did support SLAC's demand for
SEE DANIELS, PAGE A5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Kendrick Lamar falls short

Dubray Kinney writes that Lamar's newest album, *DAMN.*, fails to build on his past successes.
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Confronting campus rapists

Maddie King explores a difficult question: How do students face the rapists in their lives? **OPINIONS, PAGE A11**

Appreciating erasure poetry

Bessie Liu argues that "found" poetry, which involves removing words from other texts, deserves to be studied. **VOICES, PAGE A8**

NEWS & FEATURES

Panelists talk poverty crisis in Middle East



COURTESY OF ANNA GORDON
Panelists evaluated the lack of humanitarian aid in the Middle East.

By ANNA GORDON
For *The News-Letter*

Three panelists discussed the state of poverty and humanitarian aid in the Middle East in Charles Commons on Thursday, April 13. The event, which was hosted by the Hopkins chapter of Nourish International and the International Studies Leadership Council, discussed the implications of rising instability within the region.

Erol Yayboke, one of the speakers, is a research fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He warned that the refugee crisis may worsen over time as countries take funding away from preventative programs, from funding agriculture in Jordan to supporting Syrian refugees in Norway.

"It's this vicious cycle of taking funding away from things that could help prevent refugees, which causes more refugees," Yayboke said.

Yayboke explained that oftentimes well-intentioned Western countries, including the United States, fail to address poverty in the region because they are too narrowly focused.

"The problem is bigger and deeper than just refugees," he said.

Panelist Hani Almadhoun, who is the director of Donor Development at American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), raised concerns about President Donald Trump's administration.

Almadhoun explained that budget cuts could seriously harm his organization, ANERA, because they receive over a million dollars annually from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Almadhoun explained that ANERA provides basic sources of relief for Gazans. He stressed that he was worried that greater instability in the region will lead to more conflict.

"God forbid there is another war in Gaza," he said. "It could [sap] the money away from us to provide water to the people."

Robert Freedman, who is a visiting Hopkins political science professor, was the third panelist. He emphasized that the continuous conflict limits the region's economic activities. Freedman cited the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which reported that the region has lost \$613.8 billion due to armed conflict.

The moderators also asked the panelists about their thoughts on the recent chemical attack in Syria and Trump's bombing of a Syrian military airfield on April 6.

Freedman thinks that one motivation behind Trump's actions is to distinguish his administra-

tion from Obama's. He also mentioned that Trump may have also called the strike to pressure Chinese President Xi Jinping to discourage North Korea's nuclear weapon development. He further suggested that Trump's actions could be viewed as a message for Russia.

"This is pure speculation," he said. "But I think it may send a message to Mr. Putin to tell Mr. Assad that it's dangerous if you keep going along this path."

When the moderators shifted the conversation to the Arab-Israeli conflict, all three panelists were pessimistic about the possibility for a peace agreement in the near future.

Freedman argued that peace was impossible without the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank and encouraged leaders on both sides to be committed to the process.

"You don't have that combination now," he said. "That's why, no matter how great a deal maker Mr. Trump is, I think that overall, you're going to have real problems making peace."

Almadhoun said the Middle East is in limbo.

"I don't see a two-state solution happening, but I don't see the Israelis taking a one-state solution either," he said.

All the panelists agreed that the living conditions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon are a major humanitarian problem.

When the conversation shifted to terrorism, Almadhoun felt that it was important to note that the U.S. government kills civilians as well.

"The only difference between us and a terrorist is the packaging," he said. "We feel bad we did it."

Yayboke had a foreboding prediction regarding the future of poverty and hunger.

"The next revolution is going to be the revolution of the hungry," he said.

Freshman Evan Drukker-Schardl found that the panelists complemented one another effectively.

"The three different perspectives were distinct and meshed together very well," Drukker-Schardl said.

On the other hand, freshman Natalie Wu wished the conversation had stayed more focused on poverty as opposed to geopolitical issues.

"I would have liked to see the humanitarian side come up a little more towards the end," she said.

President of the Hopkins chapter of Nourish International Brianna So spoke about the motivation behind planning the event.

"We wanted to focus on foreign and humanitarian aid," she said. "War and poverty can't be spoken about without each other," she said.

Prof. rejects racial bias in criminal drug policy

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

Carl Hart, the Dirk Ziff Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, presented on racial discrimination in drug policy on Tuesday evening in Shriver Hall. His talk, "Drug Policy is Race Policy," was a part of the JHU Forums on Race in America, a series designed to promote conversations about race and racism at Hopkins.

University Provost Sunil Kumar introduced Hart and commended him for speaking out on public policy.

"Dr. Hart asserts that science should write our policies, even if it makes us uncomfortable," he said. "I congratulate you on your ability and your courage and, most importantly, your perseverance in making an important problem known to a broad audience."

Hart has published many articles about neuropsychopharmacology and is the author of *High Price*, which received the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award in 2014. He is also the first tenured African-American professor in the sciences at Columbia.

Hart began by explaining how he approaches the discourse surrounding race.

"In America, we don't usually talk honestly and candidly about race. Some people get offended. The goal is not to offend you, but I have to be honest," he said. "I'm just deeply disappointed with our country and I'm very passionate about what I do."

According to Hart, one of the most important lessons he learned while conducting research for his book was that drugs have no inherent moral value until they are in a biological system. Although drugs like cocaine, methamphetamine

and opioids have addictive potential, he stressed that these stigmatized drugs also have positive uses. They can be used as local anesthetics, treatments for attention deficit disorder or even cough suppressants.

"These drugs, of course you can get in trouble with, but they're not good or bad," he said. "We need to remove that sort of language. If we don't remove that language, it allows us to not only vilify the drug but the people that are associated with that drug use."

He also learned that drug use is not drug abuse, since most drug users do not have an addiction problem.

"The vast majority of people that use drugs don't have a problem with drugs," Hart said. "They are responsible people that take care of their families, they take care of taxes, some of them go to Johns Hopkins University, some of them are invited here to be your distinguished speaker. I'm a drug user."

Hart went on to say that the negative stigma surrounding drug abuse has made American drug law enforcement policy harsh and problematic.

"We have been allowed to deal with drug law enforcement in this way, because we have exaggerated the harmful effects of drugs," he said. "The public thinks that we have to engage in these incredible, repressive policies in order to deal with drugs."



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Columbia Professor Carl Hart pushed for a scientific approach when writing drug policies.

He cited what he called the "racist" Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which mandated the same minimum five-year prison sentence for possessing five grams of crack cocaine as it did for possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

Hart pointed out that although crack and powder cocaine are essentially the same chemically, crack cocaine was predominantly used within African-American communities.

"In the 1980s, we were compassionate then towards white cocaine users," Hart said. "Just read the papers and go back. It's just the black dealers... We were harsh towards, just as we are doing with heroin trafficking today."

Hart said that racial minorities are arrested for possession of heroin or marijuana at higher rates than white people, not because of biological differences but because of racism.

"We can't say that we're going to get those Black folks and Latino folks," he said. "But we can say that we're going to rid the community of crack cocaine, and we know who we're going to get. We can say that. But we can't explicitly say, 'We're going out to get those people.'"

He concluded that the narrative surrounding drug use and the legal status of drugs must change.

"Of course we see people who have problems related to drugs, but they also have many other problems, and it was just easier to blame the drugs. So we have to get out of the closet about drug use to change this narrative," he said. "We have to work to change the legal status of drugs."

Freshman Reginae Davis commented on the relevance of Hart's presentation to the Baltimore community.

"It's a different perspective when you see students here engaging in recreational drug activities and then when you think about the Baltimore community at large and how that's viewed publicly," she said. "Like 'Oh we're Hopkins students, we're good students, we can do drugs and have fun' and down the street there's somebody being arrested, being killed for doing the same exact thing."

Freshman Frank Guerriero also enjoyed Hart's presentation.

"I think that he's, generally speaking, a model academic," Guerriero said. "I think the passion with which he speaks and the impact that he can have is profound."

Goldstein examines men's role in rape culture

By EMMA ROALSVIG
Staff Writer

Rebecca Goldstein, a representative from the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Men Can Stop Rape, led a discussion about what men can do to combat rape culture.

The event, "Rape as a Men's Issue," took place on Thursday, April 13. It was part of The Masculinity Project, which is a collaboration between the Offices of Gender Equity and LGBTQ Life.

Director of the Office of Gender Equity Jeannine Heynes said that discussions about sexual assault often focus on ways that women can protect themselves. Because of this, men may be discouraged from entering the conversation.

"It's not very masculine to talk about masculinity," Heynes said. "I think there are so many things in our culture that say 'It's just easier for you, men, to not be part of this conversation.'"

In her discussion, Goldstein explored the way men are stereotyped by studying surveys of the past 20 years.

She found that when people think of 'real men,' the characteristics that come to mind are still

vastly different from the traits that people think of for 'strong men.'

She explained that 'real men' are generally viewed as handsome, unemotional and self-reliant, whereas 'strong men' are seen as considerate or generous.

Goldstein explained that there are men who do not fit into the typical definition of masculinity.

"There are people out there who don't need to follow this common dominant narrative and story and are able to push past it," she said. "This counter-story explores just how many different kinds of people there are out there."

Goldstein gave six reasons why sexual violence also affects men.

"Men commit sexual violence. Men are sexually violated. Men know potential survivors. Men know potential perpetrators. Men are confined by sexual violence. And men can prevent sexual violence," she said.

Goldstein pointed out that the way people talk about sexual assault is usually focused on steps women can take to protect themselves and can overlook other genders.

"It's all about women and what women need to do, and it doesn't allow for male survivors or gender non-conforming roles," Goldstein said. "It's all about having a vagina and not wanting a penis inside of it. It's about straight sex between a man and a woman."

Rather than stopping perpetrators, Goldstein discussed how the common approach towards preventing sexual assault is the idea that potential victims need to protect themselves.

The suggested strategies for safety often promote certain preventative actions like going out in groups and taking self-defense courses. Goldstein observed that women are taught to prevent rape and are given tools such as nail polish which changes color when in

contact with a date-rape drug and female condoms with 'teeth' inside.

According to Goldstein, these strategies and tools tend to avoid the root of the issue. She also asserted that putting emphasis on prevention can lead to victim blaming and perpetuate the false belief that perpetrators are usually strangers. In reality, Goldstein said that those who commit sexual assault are more likely to be someone that the survivor knows.

She pointed out that survivors are usually the most concerned about sexual assault advocacy. When she has conversations about sexual violence, she said that it is always mostly women who show up.

Goldstein suggested that the best way to raise awareness and educate people about rape prevention is to have conversations with others.

She mentioned that it only takes one person to speak up to spark discussion about sexual assault prevention.

"A lot of people might not feel like they have permission to call someone out when they say something problematic," she said. "But as soon as one person does that, others will start to chime in."

NEWS & FEATURES

SGA debates potential campus smoking ban

By JEANNE LEE
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) discussed the potential of implementing a smoking ban resolution on campus at its weekly meeting on Tuesday in Charles Commons.

Freshman Class Senator Rushabh Doshi presented the smoking ban resolution bill, which implements a campus-wide smoking ban initially intended to begin within the next four years. Doshi explained that this time frame would serve as a transition period for current students to adjust to the policy changes.

"We spoke with Erin Yun, who is deputy to the vice provost for student affairs," Doshi said. "[She said] we cannot expect a current freshman to change their habits for the next few years, because it is a big part of them."

Doshi explained that an extended time frame would also help inform students about the policy.

"For every incoming class, we want to provide

"It is appropriate for us to advocate the smoking ban."

— PEPE MUNIZ,
JUNIOR CLASS
SENATOR

respecting or alienating students who do smoke, I feel like it is making a statement about smoking that isn't necessarily related to the smoking ban itself," Muniz said. "People who smoke are able to smoke, and I am proposing to eliminate that line."

Muniz continued to explain that the purpose of the ban was to help the people being affected by second-hand smoking, rather than forcing smokers to change their habits.

"It is appropriate for us to advocate the smoking ban so that students who are not choosing to smoke should not be affected by this in their own campus," Muniz said.

Junior Class Senator Mieraf Teka agreed that the bill's objective would need to be revised.

"I don't think it's our place to say statements about a person's way of life, and I feel like that is what the bill does," Teka said.

There was discussion as to whether the purpose of the smoking ban res-

olution was both to protect the health of smokers as well as those affected by second-hand smoking.

"The role of the government is to protect people. In the same way, we have to protect our students," Senior Class Senator Jeremy Fraenkel said. "We have to teach them that smoking is bad."

Sophomore Class Senator Akshay Bhamidipati agreed that current smokers should be given the freedom to control their own body, but emphasized that this would affect those non-smokers who do not have a choice.

"Second-hand smoking is arguably worse than first-hand smoking," he said. "We should be protecting the overwhelming majority of students who go to this campus, who don't make this choice [but] are still subjected to it."

The bill also did not include resources to help students quit smoking.

"We're not doing enough to make sure that students who do have smoking addictions actually can be treated and get help with that," Alston said. "It just seems like we're isolating them."

Upon tabling the resolution, Doshi admitted that his bill could be stronger.

"I agree that we should ask the administration to ask current smokers who may or may not want to quit," he said. "I don't think that's raised properly in the bill."

SGA members concluded that a campus-wide smoking ban resolution was definitely an issue of far greater scope than what could be discussed in single student meeting.

"We are at a point thinking whether or not we should be telling people what to do with their own body," Alston said. "We're not trying to convince each other what the role of the government is, and governing people's health is, in these next 20 minutes."

Students rally in support of Nolan's worker

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

After a conflict between Hopkins Dining worker Latanya Genius and her temporary manager, students reached out to Hopkins Dining to express dissatisfaction with the manager's behavior. The manager has since been removed from Nolan's dining facility.

Sophomore Alex Ferzola posted in the Class of 2019 Facebook group, which brought attention to the issue. In the post, Ferzola explained a recent incident he witnessed in which the manager was disrespectful towards the dining workers, specifically Genius. He urged students to contact Dining to express their concerns.

Ferzola explained why he composed the Facebook post in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"I posted the lengthy Facebook article with the intentions of hearing back from a few more peers, hoping to get more information about the situation," he wrote. "What I actually received was an influx of 350+ reactions and 20 comments."

Genius said that the manager created a work environment that made her uncomfortable.

According to Genius, the disagreements resulted from new portion

control measures, particularly on the chicken wings that she serves. She said that the manager acted disrespectfully, berated her in front of students for not following the guidelines and refused to leave her alone while she was working.

She explained how the manager brought out a scale for her to weigh portions, which she considered demeaning. Genius has worked at the University for almost four and a half years and believes that the new policies violated her training from Dining.

Genius explained that she did not follow the portion control guidelines because her job is to make sure students have enough food.

"Whatever the students ask for, that's our job to make sure we provide it for them," she said. "They play sports, they fry their brains in the library studying all day, so if they ask for something



FILE PHOTO
The temporary manager at Nolan's was dismissed after a conflict with a worker.

extra we're supposed to give it to them to make sure they're full. It just makes sense."

She said that she thinks of the students in Nolan's as her children when she is at work, away from her own family. According to Genius, students are the reason she comes to work every day.

"I literally love coming to work," Genius said. "I love being at work, I love the people I work with, I love the students. It is about making them happy, it is about making them full. It's not about just us because if [the students] weren't here, we wouldn't have jobs."

She said that on the day of the conflict, she was worried about being written up for failing to follow the rules but became even

more distressed after students asked her what was wrong. Genius left her shift early because she said that seeing students unhappy made her physically upset.

The student reaction on social media after Ferzola's Facebook post brought the issue to Dining's attention.

Director of Hopkins Dining Bill Connor explained that he contacted Bon Appétit, the catering company that employs Genius, as soon as he was notified of the situation.

"Hopkins Dining will continue to work closely with Bon Appétit on this issue," Connor wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "While we are not able to confirm employment of Bon Appétit staff members, Bon Appétit informed Hopkins Dining that [the manager] is no longer at any of the Johns Hopkins University venues."

Ferzola wrote that he was satisfied with Dining's response to the issue.

"The dining administration swiftly took action on the matter, and very professionally," he wrote. "They handled the whole situation with sympathy for the student body and professionalism in the workplace."

A number of students have expressed support for Genius, sharing personal stories about their interactions with her in the comments section of Ferzola's Facebook post.

Sophomore Caroline Lupetini said that Genius' kindness made Hopkins a welcoming environment for students.

"She's truly one of the kindest people I've ever met at Hopkins," Lupetini said. "She always asks students how they're doing, how their day is going. It's that type of personal kindness that really means a lot. That makes Hopkins a home away from home."

Lupetini said she has heard of other hostile work environments in campus dining facilities such as the Fresh Food Cafe. She also said that the workers are underpaid. She emphasized that students should be more cognizant of worker conditions on campus.

"In general, I think students should just be more responsive, respectful and caring towards our service workers," she said. "We should be showing these people a lot more respect."

Sophomore Charlie Wang wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that students should support workers like Genius.

"[She] is a model employee, the employee that companies in the hospital industry yearn to have," he wrote. "She is genuinely a great person. Students are the only ones in the role and have the power to help someone like her. If students do not, no one will."

Woman doctors criticize stereotypes

By AMANDA KAUFMAN
For *The News-Letter*

Speakers from the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Maryland (UMD) Medical Center spoke about the challenges and accomplishments of women in medicine and surgery last Monday in Mergenthaler Hall.

The event, which was streamed online to other universities, was co-sponsored by Hopkins Feminists, The Triple Helix at Johns Hopkins, the Women's Pre-Health Leadership Society, Alpha Epsilon Delta and the Women in Surgery Interest Group at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Carlene Partow, a first-year medical student at the University of California, San Francisco who graduated from Hopkins in 2016, hosted the panel. She said that only 14 percent of plastic surgeons and six percent of neurosurgeons are women, while the number of surgeons who are women of color is too low to report.

To open discussion, Partow asked what the most important barriers are to women entering surgery.

Melanie Major, a fourth-year medical student at Johns Hopkins Hospital, brought up the lack of female role models in the field.

"Male or female, people can provide guidance in terms of your career," she said. "But I think getting a woman's perspective on some of the unique professional and personal obligations you face as a surgeon would have helped me make a decision earlier."

Major's fellow panelist Nancy Abu-Bonsrah, the first black woman in neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, added that she is confronted with inherently biased questions.

"There are very few people who look like me and have been through similar experiences, par-

ticularly in neurosurgery, that I could have looked up to," Abu-Bonsrah said. "There were a lot of questions about how I'm going to balance my family, questions I don't think my male counterparts would have encountered that much."

One audience member asked about how having children and a family affects these women's decision to go into surgery.

Dr. Bethany Sacks, the assistant program director of the department of surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, described her own experience having children.

She said that she never questioned having children, but instead focused on her career goals.

"It doesn't have to be at the forefront, and it doesn't have to be totally put on the back burner either," Sacks said. "Whatever happens, happens. You definitely don't have to put that part of your life on hold to become a surgeon."

Dr. Richelle Williams, a surgical oncology practitioner at UMD Medical Center, offered a firsthand account of the stereotyping that goes on inside the hospital, saying that a patient recently assumed she was a white man based on her name.

"I thought it was funny that that's what she was expecting," she said. "But to be quite honest, I've lived it for nine years, so it was not surprising at all."

Partow asked Williams and Abu-Bonsrah whether they felt their blackness or gender was a greater obstacle, or whether they experienced something different entirely.

Abu-Bonsrah spoke about the weight her race holds in the medical environment and how she overcame the insecurity it initially brought upon her. She said that she would question her belonging when she was the only black person in the room.

"It is important to real-

ize that you deserve to be there," Abu-Bonsrah said. "It's also important to realize that the people who surround you encourage you and acknowledge your capabilities as well."

Major explained how she could go about properly being an ally to her colleagues who are women of color.

"A good starting point is perhaps acknowledging the fact that prejudice and bias exists in our everyday life and trying to educate ourselves about those prejudices and biases in our workplace," she said.

She also said that it is important to self-reflect and question where one's prejudices lie and what one's privileges are. Major said that understanding diversity was the key to connecting with their diverse patient population.

According to Williams, her mentors tended to be white men. However, she said that it didn't matter to them that she was black or a woman, only that she got work done and learned well.

A member of the audience asked whether she adopted a more masculine persona in the workplace. Williams answered that she did not.

"I realized I wanted to be unapologetically me, even if that meant talking about something really girly in the operating room," she said. "If you're a female surgeon acting male to be taken seriously, you don't get to bring in all the wonderful things a woman brings into surgery."

Sacks pointed out that the question was indicative of gender biases ingrained in society.

"Inherent in that question is the idea that acting assertive is a male trait, but I think it's just being a surgeon," she said. "Surgeons are assertive. They are go-getters. That's just how you have to be."

NEWS & FEATURES

Student groups critique protest guidelines

GUIDELINES, FROM A1 unnecessarily restrictive.

According to Martinez, The Office of the Dean of Student Life originally created the guidelines in response to student groups' requests. She said that these student groups wanted one document that outlined all of the University's current policies on free expression.

"We actually started this document some time at the beginning of last semester," she said. "I knew given the upcoming elections that there might be some more activism on campus and was just trying to put together an easy way for students to have access to that information."

Concerned Student Groups

In an opinions piece in last week's issue of *The News-Letter*, concerned student organizations, led by Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), criticized the policy's vague language and accused the University of stifling free expression.

Freshman Mira Wattal, a member of SDS, is worried about the document's clear dismissal of the "automatic right" of access to University spaces.

"Right off the bat, the University is recommending that students have some sort of prior permission before they can protest and exercise their right to make demands of the University," she said.

Wattal objected to the fact that under the SLI event planning guide, student protests require an event advising meeting because they are designated Level 3 or Level 4 events. She argues that these extra steps would limit the efficacy of student protests and impose needless bureaucratic restrictions. She highlighted the rule that requires all events, including protests, to be registered 10 business days in advance.

"With student action [events], timelines are often sensitive," she said. "For example, the Hands Off the Humanities Protests... they couldn't have had 10 business days to come up with a protest [and] register through this whole set of bureaucratic steps."

For Wattal, the idea of placing guidelines on free expression is antithetical to the idea of protest. She stressed that contract workers need immediate change and cannot afford to wait for "bureaucratic nonsense."

"Their rights are something that should be given to them now, and that's why I think it's important that the University should not have to give us 'permission' to have access for a demonstration," she said.

Because the University is often the target for on-campus protests, it cannot act as a neutral party that polices them, according to Wattal. She cited the fossil fuel divestment protests, the Black Student Union's protest that led to the Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion in 2015 and the recent Student-Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) protests as examples.

"They cannot say that we do not have the right to disrupt administrative activities because oftentimes that is what we need to do to make sure that our demands are being heard," she said.

Wattal argued that the

guidelines attack students' right to protest or counter-protest. She understood why the University had added the provision but advocated for its deletion.

"Obviously, we want to ensure that everyone's voices are being heard, but just because students have the right to express themselves, they do not have the right to be free from dissent," she said.

Although Wattal thinks that the University wants to foster a supportive community for student activists, the vagueness of the guidelines and its claim to be a neutral party are concerning.

"It seems that the timing that these were released — right after the SLAC protests — seems as if the University was trying to use the guidelines as a scare tactic."

Wattal said that the document's assertion that students are "accountable for their invited guests" is vague and disappointing. SDS is advocating for the protection of contract workers under any revised guidelines and the recognition of dining and security workers as official members of the Hopkins community.

"They're not second-class citizens, they deserve the same rights as full employees as the University defines it, and the fact that [Hopkins] even used that kind of language in the guidelines on free expression is disheartening," she said.

Martinez said that she will meet with SDS and other concerned student groups in the next two weeks and pointed out that the document can be amended. She denied that the surge in student activism was in any way connected to the guidelines' release.

For junior Atlas Elawad, the incoming president of the fossil fuel divestment movement Refuel Our Future (ROF), any "guidelines" are opposed to the very idea of free expression, even though they are not technically binding.

"Really anything that encroaches on, or restricts, a student's ability to express [him or herself], for us, that conflicts almost entirely with what we're trying to do," he said.

Like Wattal, Elawad believes that the guidelines are responding to the recent spike in activism in Baltimore and at Hopkins. He does not believe Martinez's assertion that the two are unconnected.

Elawad said that while the guidelines may affect possible ROF demonstrations in the future, they will not adapt their campaign. On Monday, they hosted an unregistered rally before the JHU Forum on Divestment. Putting pressure on the University through impromptu demonstrations has been critical to Refuel's mission.

"We're definitely going to continue to do what we have to do to get the University to divest; That's never going to change," he said.

What does SGA think?

Martinez presented the guidelines to the Student

Government Association (SGA) senate before releasing the document. She also worked closely with the SGA executive board to incorporate their feedback into guideline revisions.

However, sophomore AJ Tsang, the incoming executive vice president of SGA, wishes the entire SGA senate had been invited to review the document prior to its release instead of just the executive board.

Tsang understands why the University developed the guidelines but is deeply concerned about the restrictive effect they could have on student expression. Tsang said that next year's SGA executive board will fight to ensure that all registered student protests are approved.

Tsang hopes that SGA will be able to pressure the administration to open permanent "demonstration spaces" on campus where students can express their concerns at any time. Columbia University and the University of California, Berkeley have opened similar spaces.

"We're trying to get in Garland and talk to people who can make these changes."

— AJ TSANG, SGA SENATOR

He believes that Martinez and her team want to support free expression but may have faced pressure from

upper-ranking administrators, who rarely interact with students, to write the guidelines. Tsang stressed that students must continue to defend their free-speech rights.

"I think it's so important that students can ruffle feathers, that students do get out there and have the ability to demonstrate," he said. "As long as we're not vandalizing anything — and I don't think anyone ever does that — I think we should have the right to gather and demonstrate. That's enshrined in the U.S. Constitution."

While Martinez has been working on the guidelines since October, Tsang, like Elawad and Wattal, sees a clear connection between the spike in campus activism and the document's release. He cited the past few years' Black Lives Matter and fossil fuel divestment demonstrations, all directed at the administration, as a motivating factor behind the guidelines.

Tsang hopes that administrators who only occasionally interact with students understand why so many are concerned with the guidelines.

"We're not trying to burn down Garland," he said. "We're trying to get in Garland and talk to people who can make these changes."

SGA Executive President Charlie Green and her executive board support Martinez and the guidelines. Green rejected the link between the guidelines and the spike in activism and said that the executive board extensively revised the guidelines.

"We went through each section of the guidelines. We gave feedback on a lot of the wording," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We believe they were put in place to encourage students to register protests beforehand, so that they avoid any scheduling and space issues."

Martinez said that her office has worked closely

with SGA and changed the more restrictive language after their feedback.

"It seemed very restrictive, and so we changed all of the language... so that it could be seen as 'If you wanted to plan an event, here's something you need to know, so here's something that you should consider,'" she said.

Dean Martinez's Response

Martinez said that while the backlash surprised her, the concerns raised by students have merit.

"I'd like to sit down and talk with students because it's not intended to squelch protests at all," she said. "It's intended to make sure that they're coordinated so that each group — whatever side of an opinion students might have — that they have an opportunity to protest."

While Martinez says the right to counter-protest is critical, she argues that students should respect space reservations on campus. She recognizes that registering demonstrations may be counter to the nature of protest, but Martinez wants students to respect others' right to hold events on campus.

She specifically cited a Humanities Center protest last semester that disrupted an event for an advertising class that had reserved the Levering Courtyard.

"[If they had registered the protest,] we could have gone to that student group and said, 'Hey, there are some students that are planning a protest. We just want to make sure that you're aware of that... so both events can happen at the same time,'" she said.

Martinez said that registering protests would allow the administration to ensure that a University representative is there to collect protesters' demands. The new version of the document removed references to "disrupting administrative activities," and Martinez promised that Garland will remain open for student protests.

Martinez said that students shouldn't think of the guidelines as hard policies and that there is room for negotiation. She also mentioned that it would be hard to enforce many of the policies.

"If people don't reserve the space there's nothing really that we can do about that... It really was intended to ensure that students can have a smooth event," she said. "It wasn't intended to restrict."

TCO Labs hosts Hatch Innovation Conference



COURTESY OF DANIELA ZAPATA

Students had the opportunity to network with Baltimore startups.

By SARAH Y. KIM
Staff Writer

TCO Labs, a student-run, nonprofit organization whose goal is to foster a stronger entrepreneurial environment at Hopkins, held its first annual Hatch Innovation Conference on Saturday in Hodson Hall. The conference brought together various student, alumni and local startups.

Co-Founder and Innovation Officer sophomore Brooke Stephanian said they wanted to make the event more Baltimore-focused.

"We develop people with very technical skills that are able to come up with entrepreneurial ideas," Stephanian said. "The problem is that they leave. Being able to connect them with the Baltimore community helps them stay and helps them grow."

The conference brought in six entrepreneurs, four of whom are Hopkins alumni, to take part in two speaker sessions.

The first session opened with Hopkins alumnus Dave Troy, founder of the investment group Baltimore Angels. He encouraged students to start young as entrepreneurs.

"You're very malleable at that age to try different things and not worry so much about the consequences," he said.

Carmen Daniels Jones, President and CEO of Solutions Marketing Group, a consulting firm that assists companies in marketing to disabled people, spoke next. Jones advised her audience to focus on how their entrepreneurship helps others.

"When you're doing your work, ask yourself this question: how is someone's life better as a result of crossing my path?" she said.

Hopkins alumnus Paul Grossinger closed the first speaker session explaining the importance of learning from one's entrepreneurial shortcomings.

"You have to strategically [ask] what did I do

wrong?" he said.

The second speaker session began with Richard May, CEO and chairman of Innovation Village Baltimore, which seeks to strengthen entrepreneurship in Baltimore. He spoke about the need to create inclusive economies.

"When you get around people who are different from you, you're peanut butter, you're jelly, you're bread, we're going to mash you together, and you're going to figure it out together," May said.

Hopkins alumnus Ben Hwang, CEO of biosensor technology company Profusa, urged students to seek out challenges.

"Anything worth doing has an element of intimidation to it," Hwang said.

Kelly Keenan Trumbour, who has used her investment firm See Jane Invest as a platform for funding female-led startups, commented on the role businesses play in progressive societies.

"Business is a branch of the marketplace that informs politics," she said. "If you become the next Bill Gates... your company and the template it sets for workplace culture, how you treat your employees, the products that you put out, the sustainability of those products — you will lead something that someone will study and model."

In addition to the speaker sessions, students participated in three different workshops.

Freshman David In felt the workshops were very informative and alleviated his apprehensions about the business world.

"I think this conference gave me a lot more confidence," he said.

Freshman Jayden Liu felt the showcase was inspiring.

"It's really good how these are all just budding startups, ideas that are still growing," he said. "I have my own ideas, and I want to see them grow, too, but I didn't know how, so this is a cool way of learning."

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NEWS & FEATURES

What role do students play in serving the Baltimore community?



COURTESY OF APO

Members of APO, a service fraternity on campus, volunteer for many local organizations.

Fitzgerald believes some APO members may not recognize the needs of the students they tutor.

She responded to this concern by implementing mandatory trainings for volunteers

working with children. She has also led an initiative to have more reflection sessions for APO members to discuss the challenges they face.

"I think what I realized when I came in is that there wasn't a lot of discussion around why we do the service that we do," Fitzgerald said. "I realized that education wasn't coming to the service project. It was staying in the classroom."

Junior Angad Uppal, APO's current pledge master, also feels that many initiatives to improve the organization came from within rather than from the CSC.

"There's no real faculty that's involved, or support," Uppal said, "Our service budget is kind of small, and that's like our bread and butter."

Uppal emphasized the need to communicate with the people that the group serves.

"You should always be asking the people you are serving, what can I help

you with? What can I provide for you? Not 'I know what you need, here you go,'" Uppal said.

Uppal shared a number of positive experiences working on service projects, like planting gardens in the city, cleaning up trash in the harbor, and GED tutoring.

"A lot of the projects that we do are very rewarding, and it's just like the kind of work and the kind of exposure that you want to be getting that you don't get at this school," Uppal said.

Other students like senior Lucinda Chiu also found her community service work to be rewarding. Currently, Chiu serves as co-president of the Jail Tutorial Project, a group that tutors inmates in the Baltimore city area.

At times, though, Chiu has struggled to understand the importance of the work she has done, although she ultimately believes her service efforts are worthwhile.

"It was really hard to see the impact I was making," she said. "Not every single inmate I help with GED tutoring gets a GED. At least I don't see them get their GED, or once they leave, I have no idea where they go after that."

Senior Maggie Weese, a member of APO and a three-time CIIP intern, has also found it difficult to appreciate the impact of her work, as there are still larger systemic issues that are difficult to address.

"Unless you are making large policy changes, it can feel really hard to

feel like you're making an impact," Weese said.

One place where Weese worked as a CIIP intern was a recreation center in west Baltimore. Although the people who ran the center were from the neighborhood and were familiar with the needs of the community, they faced financial barriers.

When she left, Weese realized that those challenges would persist.

"The frustration came from knowing that at the end of the summer, my

internship was going to end, but the difficulties that they face as an organization wouldn't end once I leave," Weese said.

She cautioned students against assuming they know what a community

needs. "A lot of people here at least believe they are an expert on something. When they enter the community, they are no longer the expert," Weese said. "The people who live there and who are from there and who run these organizations, they're the experts."

Young Song, the director of the Tutorial Project, also discussed the need for students to understand

the community they serve.

The Tutorial Project matches Hopkins students with Baltimore elementary school students, who they then tutor in reading and math two days a week after school.

Song explained that children in Baltimore and Hopkins students often come from different backgrounds and as a result have different attitudes and experiences.

She believes that working with Tutorial Project can be an eye-opening experience for many Hopkins students.

She also said that with the different commitments and workloads of most Hopkins students, it can be difficult to find people willing to commit. "It's difficult at Hopkins, because this environment is not conducive to that kind of community service commitment," Song said.

She also sees a difference in the students who are actually committed to Tutorial Project. "You can definitely tell the ones that are just doing it to put on their resume versus the ones who are committed and really want to work with kids," Song said.

"I realized that education wasn't coming to the service project. It was staying in the classroom."

— TARAH FITZGERALD, APO VICE PRESIDENT

ment.

Fitzgerald expressed that while she admires the CSC, a lack of resources and staff makes it difficult for the CSC to adequately oversee all of the student organizations and programs.

"I think there is a lot of follow through that needs to be going on that is still lacking, mostly because the CSC just is not given the support and resources that it needs to do the job that it is doing," Fitzgerald said.

According to Fitzgerald, most of the responsibilities for organizing APO activities are placed on the students. The group has approximately 300 members and about 50 community partners, with approximately five to six projects every day.

As APO expands, Fitzgerald thinks that the CSC needs to be more proactive.

For example, APO organizes many tutoring efforts in Baltimore. Still,

CSC, from A1 experiences," Neyenhouse said.

The CSC oversees more than 50 student community service groups, a community-based federal work-study program, a competitive paid summer Community Impact Internship Program (CIIP) and Alternative Break programs.

Recently, the CSC has been implementing more student reflection sessions for group leaders. Neyenhouse said that these reflection sessions provide an opportunity for students to discuss the challenges involved with working in Baltimore.

"That's one of our main elements, to make sure there is... training in the front but also opportunities for reflection after the service," Neyenhouse said.

Some community partners that interact with Hopkins described their relationship with the University positively.

Rosalyn Stewart, the volunteer and community outreach manager at the Keswick Multi-Care Center, said that she found Hopkins students to be reliable volunteers.

"We are blessed to have the students volunteering here," Stewart said. "They've done a great job helping the residents."

Jayna Powell, a volunteer coordinator at Paul's Place, said that the volunteers from Hopkins have a good mentality and are willing to help.

"They do whatever needs to be done. And that's the perfect kind of volunteer group, because a lot of times groups come in and they want to do what they want to do," Powell said.

Powell expressed that she would like to see Hopkins do more to help educate students in Baltimore. In particular, she would like to see more students mentor the city's youth.

"I think if Hopkins really wants to say they are making an impact on our community, anything they can do to help young men and women get out of those neighborhoods and into college is a good thing," Powell said.

Alison Young, the volunteer manager for Blue Water Baltimore, a non-profit that runs community service projects aimed at cleaning up the city's waterways and communities, stressed how engaged Hopkins students are when volunteering.

Nevertheless, she did also said that encouraging students to remain in Baltimore when their studies are over would help strengthen these communities.

Although many community partners and students believe the CSC is having a positive impact, they noted that there are still areas for improve-

Daniels addresses student frustrations with administration

DANIELS, FROM A1

guaranteed job security. He referenced last summer, when the University was considering changing their security guard contractors.

"We made it very clear to all prospective employers who we would contract with that we wanted them to basically work with the existing employee group," he said. "We made that essentially a condition for renewal."

SLAC's third demand is for the University to provide contract workers a program similar to the Live Near Your Work, which provides direct Hopkins employees housing grants to purchase houses in local neighborhoods.

Daniels explained how Baltimore city leads the initiative, which subsidizes the costs of these grants. He suggested that the contract companies should do something similar.

"Here, we will and have encouraged our contract employers to take seriously the prospects for that program," he said. "We hope that they will enter into an arrangement with the city where they will set up their own 'Live Near Your Work' program that parallels, not necessarily in quantum but at least in structure how we thought about the program for University employees."

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Student group Refuel Our Future, has spent the past six years advocating for the University to divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies. Their efforts led to a forum on

Monday evening, hosted by the Office of the Provost, where supporters and opponents of divestment delivered their arguments. Daniels attended the entire event and reflected on the evening.

He emphasized that he does not dispute that climate change is happening and believes there is a need to address it.

Regarding fossil fuel divestment, Daniels raised concerns about how the University would choose which companies to divest from. For example, he pointed out that some companies such as airlines are major emitters of greenhouse gases.

"It's important to figure out how to draw principled lines around what you would want to divest if you decide to divest," Daniels said. "If you are going to think about divestment, is it just coal? Is it all fossil?"

He also suggested that if they were to divest from fossil fuels because of a moral obligation, then the divestment movement could spread to other University investments. He brought up the examples of generic drug companies that exploit their market power or for-profit prisons as other businesses that are morally questionable.

"One could go on and on in terms of things that we find odious about types of corporate behavior," he said. "But then the question is 'are every one of these going to be a target?' That was an important theme that came up in the session last night."

Students and the administration

This past semester, the

administration has rolled out several controversial policies that affect student life, one of which is the Homewood Student Affairs Branding Guidelines. These guidelines regulate the use of the Hopkins name and symbols by student groups.

Many student groups have criticized the guidelines as being restrictive and unnecessary. Because of the backlash, Daniels sought to alleviate those concerns.

"The spirit that I'm hoping to create with our interactions with the student body is that we do our thinking out loud, that we listen to students about concerns they have," he said.

Daniels emphasized that student feedback is important to help the administration revisit and revise their policies.

"We communicate to students regarding certain goals, imperatives that we are seeking to pursue. You put things out on a draft basis with consultation," he said. "Ultimately, you get a document that people see is principled, but workable."

A divided campus

President Donald Trump's administration has changed the political climate on campus. On Feb. 1, Daniels wrote a letter to the student body condemning Trump's travel ban, which prohibited citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S.

Daniels explained his rationale for publicizing his personal stance on the travel ban.

"There are issues where I believe that there is a very strong University interest in engaging a set of problems or positions," he said. "The travel ban was a matter that I thought rose to the level [at which] it was important for me as a university leader to speak out."

He acknowledged that although some might disagree with his position, he still felt compelled to take a stand.

"I am in no way seeking to suppress dissent or say that there is only one view on this issue," he said. "[But] there were key University stakeholders whose interests were very seriously imperiled, and it behooved me to speak."

Hopkins in Baltimore

Baltimore residents have, at times, been critical of the fact that the University draws accomplished students to the city but that the majority of these students leave after they graduate. Community members argue that the skills students gain from a Hopkins education are not used to benefit the city.

Daniels pointed out that the data they have collected seems to indi-

cate that there is a trend of more Hopkins students staying in Baltimore.

"For as long as I have been at Hopkins, I've really been anxious to see students, and indeed all stakeholders of the University, see themselves as part of Baltimore," he said. "Although it's unrealistic to expect that every student who comes to Hopkins is necessarily going to stay here after graduation, seeing more students feel that they've had enough engagement with the city... is really exciting."

He suggested that initiatives from the Center for Social Concern, increased career placement programs and new initiatives for student entrepreneurship are ways to encourage more students to stay in the city.

"We are hoping that students can get exposure to Baltimore, to investors in Baltimore and to opportunities not necessarily to be employed in Baltimore, but in fact for them to employ others by building their ideas through startup companies," Daniels said.

This interview has been edited for clarity.



Daniels has served as University president for the past eight years. FILE PHOTO

NEWS & FEATURES

Experts shed light on fossil fuel divestment

DIVESTMENT, FROM A1 investments in fossil fuel companies, the University should also invest in climate solutions like sustainable energy and clean technology.

According to Dorsey, fossil fuel emissions result in loss of life.

"[The University's] medical statement and mission is to improve the health of the community and the world," she said. "Bankrolling an industry that today is killing over 7 million people is, to put it mildly, hardly to square with that goal."

Panelist Frank Wollak, the director of the program on energy and sustainable development at Stanford University, disagreed with Dorsey. He proposed a carbon pricing mechanism as an alternative to divestment and urged students to focus on monitoring their carbon footprints.

He asserted that divestment would be economically ineffectual and that the harms of divesting outweigh the benefits.

"Even if all universities decided to divest, this would have no effect on global equity markets and no effect on the ability of these companies to raise capital," he said.

Without citing any evidence, Wollak argued that divesting in fossil fuels will likely increase tuition and reduce financial aid levels. He also warned that fossil fuel companies such as ExxonMobil may stop funding research at universities that have divested.

Similarly, panelist Rafael Castilla, director of investments and structuring at the University of Michigan Investment Office, was hesitant to back divestment. He said it was problematic that so many demonstrate the fossil fuel industry while remaining dependent on it.

"The civilization that we live in has been built, for better or worse, off the back of fossil fuels," he said.

Castilla felt that people are too reliant on fossils to switch to alternative energy sources like wind and solar power. He thinks that divestment does not fully address climate change.

"I don't know if this is a Nancy Reagan type approach where all you have to do is 'just say no' and sometimes I feel like the fossil fuel debate has that quality to it," he said.

Panelist David Powell, the co-portfolio manager of the Large-Cap Sustainable Growth Strategy for Brown Advisory, did not have an opinion on whether the University should divest from fossil fuels, but spoke about the benefits of investing in sustainable companies.

"We're playing offense with sustainability," he said.

Powell believes that sustainable energy is a growing industry. He cited sustainable companies that have worked with Brown Advisory and have flourished, profiting from

LED light bulbs and water and waste conservation.

"There are many vehicles and many investment managers like us out there," he said. "The investment community is becoming more sustainable."

In the question and answer segment, panelists fielded questions from Ferraro and audience members.

One student asked if Wollak and Castilla were opposed to divestment in general. In response, Wollak drew distinctions between divestment in different scenarios.

"We're the reason that there are greenhouse gases," he said. "It's not that we're the reason there are investments in South Africa. I think that's something where divestment, symbolically and economically, could work."

Wollak reiterated alternative solutions to divestment, while Dorsey argued that alternative solutions and divestment do not have to be mutually exclusive.

"I think the idea of a university-wide project for pricing carbon is a great idea, just like I think a university can be zero carbon emissions in its operations," he said. "That doesn't negate that you can also divest your assets from fossil fuels."

Castilla expressed concern over whether poor populations can afford sustainable energies.

"I think you would find there are a lot of situations and points in the world where coal is still substantially cheaper," he said.

Students responded positively to the panel discussion. President of Refuel Our Future Maggie Weese thanked the Provost's Office for hosting the panel and commented on the event's significance.

"It meant a lot that the University hosted this forum because it showed us that they took our demands last November seriously and are open to having a dialogue about fossil fuel divestment," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Weese hopes that the panel provided enough information for PIAC to reach a decision on the divestment proposal. She said that Jeffrey Kahn, head of PIAC, promised that the event would determine their final decision on the proposal.

"If they hold true to their commitment, we believe this means we will soon be getting an answer on fossil fuel divestment," she wrote. "We have waited over a year now and believe that PIAC has been provided ample amount of time and research to write their report."

Refuel Our Future member Hannah Lin is optimistic that the University will be more inclined to support divestment.

"I feel like this panel has presented a very clear argument for why fossil fuel divestment should take place," she said.

Graduate students protest healthcare at Hopkins



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM

Graduate students gathered in Garland to demand more affordable and accessible University healthcare.

By SARAH Y. KIM
Staff Writer

Nearly 50 graduate students marched on Garland Hall to demand University healthcare reform on Friday, April 14. The demonstration was organized by Teachers and Researchers United (TRU), a coalition of graduate students.

After several attempts at arranging a meeting with administrators, members of TRU met with Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kevin G. Shollenberger, Vice President for Human Resources Heidi E. Conway and Chief Risk Officer Jonathan Links on Monday, April 10 to outline their demands.

The University's healthcare plan is mandatory for students aged 26 or older unless they have a comparable alternative plan. Many graduate students criticize the plan for its high cost, lack of accessibility and failure to cover services like dental and eye care.

Their demands are organized into three subsections: equality, accessibility and affordability. They include a fully-funded health insurance plan, family leave for graduate student parents, coverage of mental healthcare providers outside of the Counseling Center, coverage for dental and vision care, as well as STI and HIV testing.

TRU member Ding Xuan Ng, who was present at the meeting, said that while administrators were enthusiastic about responding to these demands, no timeline for future reforms was established, and no firm commitments were made.

At Garland, the protesters insisted on meeting University President Ronald J. Daniels to reiterate their demands. The protesters filled the first floor, carrying signs and chanting "Let them in now" and "Ronny D, you can't hide, we can see your greedy side" as several of the members approached Daniels' office with their list of grievances.

"Today's action was about asking President Daniels to hold [administrators] accountable," Ng said.

However, when TRU members walked up toward Daniels' office, they were met by security personnel who said that he was not there.

"What are security personnel doing there if there is no one to protect?" Ng said.

The protesters instead delivered their grievances to Daniels through his chief of staff Kerry Ates.

"We emphasized that we expect a response and that we expect them to take us seriously," Ng said. "If we don't hear anything, we will be back."

TRU member and graduate student Jishnu Guha-Majumdar criticized the University for not providing better healthcare to its students, given its reputation as a top medical school.

"We live with a fundamental hypocrisy," Guha-Majumdar said. "[We go to] one of the schools with the best medical systems in the country, some of the best doctors in the country, some of the best healthcare in the country. And yet for graduate students, we don't have access to this healthcare."

The demonstration began in front of Levering Hall, where several participants related their personal struggles with the University's healthcare plan.

In addition to recounting their own experiences, students also read aloud stories shared anonymously with TRU.

Graduate student Diego Gelsinger described how he suffered a bicycle accident that left him nearly unconscious with several cracked ribs. Instead of calling an ambulance, Gelsinger ordered an Uber to take him home.

He explained that because Hopkins requires a 20 percent co-insurance payment on ambulance costs and other healthcare services, calling an ambulance would have been too expensive. The accident also occurred on a Friday afternoon, meaning that the Student Health and Wellness Center (HelWell) was closed.

"I decided it was going to hurt me more in the long run having the debt from the ambulance ride than having that physical pain in that moment on the Uber ride," he said.

Gelsinger said his insurance coverage made

him worry about the lack of flexibility.

"I don't think any insurance plan should make us have to worry about our coverage during an emergency when we have no way of knowing it is going to happen."

Shortly before coming to Hopkins, graduate student Casey McNeill also suffered a bicycle accident from which she has not fully recovered.

"I've been dealing with the insurance plan and hospitals and medical bills since the beginning," McNeill said.

She spoke about the medical bill she received from the accident, with which she struggled to accommodate.

"I had to have a surgery to fix the bone that I broke, so the out-of-pocket costs were around \$25,000 which at that point was almost 15 percent of my take-home pay."

After her bone healed, she was supposed to undergo physical therapy for several weeks. Each appointment, however, cost \$60.

Stressed out by the cost, McNeill stopped going to therapy after two weeks.

"In hindsight, I wish now that I had just sucked it up and done all of it, because I'm still having some issues," she said. "We have to make really stupid choices."

TRU's endeavors began last semester when they worked with the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), which conducted a survey on graduate health care.

GRO then reported the results of the survey to the administration, which remained

unresponsive. TRU then began a campaign that encourages students to sign postcards and share their problems with University healthcare.

The campaign allowed TRU to amass stories like those of Gelsinger and McNeill, which are shared on a Facebook page called TRU Healthcare.

"Some of these stories demonstrate that at Hopkins, a hospital visit could cost a quarter or more of your income," Guha-Majumdar said.

He warned that unexpected medical expenses could present a serious threat.

"Even if you haven't had issues with your health insurance yet, you're one accident, one illness, one injury away from having to deal with our messed-up healthcare system," Guha-Majumdar said.

According to Ng, Friday's demonstration was the first step in a public campaign.

"Now that we're public, we want to get more stories," he said. "We want people to know how bad the situation is with healthcare for grad students at Hopkins."

He noted that there is a lack of awareness about the healthcare system's drawbacks throughout the Hopkins community.

"I think a lot of people, especially undergrads, alumni, faculty, they're totally unaware," Ng said.

He noted that many are unaware of how their inadequate healthcare plan would affect them in an emergency.

"Grad students who haven't had to use the healthcare plan, they don't know it's so bad," Ng said. "We want them to realize that if they're even less than perfectly healthy, they're going to struggle paying those bills."

Ng asserted that TRU will continue pressing the administration to meet their expectations.

"We think that [the administration] will try to stretch it out for as long as they can," he said. "They'll try and say we need to do more research, we need to hear more views, but the truth is that we have been in consultation with them for years, and nothing's happened. We expect them to delay, but we will keep pressuring them until they commit to some type of action."

"We want people to know how bad the situation is with healthcare for grad students at Hopkins."
— DING XUAN NG, TRU MEMBER

Errata: April 13 Edition

In the April 13, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the Black Student Union was incorrectly identified as a contributor to the Progressive Student Update.

The News-Letter regrets this error.



COURTESY OF SARAH Y. KIM

Protesters marched to Garland Hall to present their demands to University President Ronald J. Daniels.

NEWS & FEATURES

Protesters march on Washington to demand Trump's tax returns



The Tax March in Washington, D.C. pressured President Trump to release his tax returns.

By **EMILY McDONALD**
For *The News-Letter*

Protesters gathered in Washington, D.C. to demand that President Donald Trump release his tax returns on April 15, 2017, which is traditionally Tax Day.

Members of the community, carrying signs and shouting slogans, gathered by the Inner Harbor to participate in the Baltimore chapter of the Tax March.

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, a Hopkins graduate, helped organize the event. Bevan-Dangel is the executive director of Common Cause Maryland, a non-profit organization which advocates for honesty and accountability in the U.S. government.

"We're helping with these marches nationwide because we see this as part of a bigger problem — lack of transparency, lack of accountability — and it's really the public's right to know what's in those tax returns," she said.

Bevan-Dangel listed

out some of her concerns regarding Trump's ethics and transparency.

"We don't know where the business investments are," she said. "We haven't seen a full divestment of the president from his companies which have investments overseas."

The president has to act in the best interests of the citizens, not in the best interest of his business entanglements."

She was optimistic about the possible effects of the Tax March.

"Marching sends a message that can't be ignored. It makes it shown that this is something that people are willing to vote on, because they are willing to come out and spend their day being heard," she said. "Some-

tration."

Janice Sevre-Duszynska, a member of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, attended the Tax March with Max Obuszewski, a writer for the Baltimore Nonviolence Center. Both are deeply involved with

activism and said that they could be found demonstrating on 33rd Street most Tuesdays.

They both decided to participate in the Tax March because they

disagreed with many of President Trump's policies and were particularly concerned with recent conflict between the U.S. and Syria.

"We're creating an atmosphere that induces people to rise up and say 'No' to the U.S.," Sevre-

Duszynska said. "It's horrendous to begin an administration with this macho, immature, bullying attitude."

Some protesters boarded a bus to Washington, D.C., where crowds gathered in front of the Capitol and then marched along Pennsylvania Avenue. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD) joined and addressed the demonstrators.

Douglas Vaughn was among the protesters who came from Baltimore to D.C.

"This is actually our first march," he said. "I'm here to speak loudly that I definitely want to see [Trump's] taxes."

He thought that the Tax March could have an impact on future elections.

"Anytime the people come in a large group and show their support or their disapproval for something, it allows everybody to know where you stand," Vaughn said. "By standing up for what you believe in, hopefully that will persuade people to vote one way or another in the elections coming up in 2018."

Sarah Gilchrist and Jay Weixelbaum also travelled from Baltimore to D.C. to participate in the Tax March.

"We decided that we wanted to be able to do something," Gilchrist said. "I think it's important for you to show up and say we don't stand for corruption in our gov-

ernment or our society, and this is one of the days we can do that."

Weixelbaum explained why he joined the rally.

"It's a reminder to be engaged, and it's part of our democratic process," he said.

Weixelbaum believes that one major problem with the Trump administration is its alleged ties to the Russian government.

"I think this could be one of the largest corruption scandals in American history, which is why, of course, we're here," he said. "The taxes would reveal many things, especially because [Trump's] hiding them, and he's made excuses that have fallen apart about being audited and so forth."

Both Gilchrist and Weixelbaum agreed that activism was important in today's political climate.

"I think people need to be more engaged," Weixelbaum said. "What can we do? Write a letter, make a phone call, go to a rally. Staying informed. Information literacy is really important."

Gilchrist emphasized that it was important for activists to be persistent.

"Basically, do what you can do," she said. "I know that we all have a million things going on in our lives, but take some time to pay attention to what's going on, and then take some action."

They also left some advice for those interested in promoting change under the Trump administration.

"Community is the antidote to fascism," Weixelbaum said.

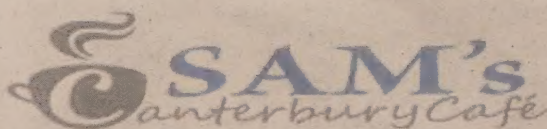
"Building connections between people rather than isolating ourselves is probably the most important thing you can do — finding like-minded people, standing up for the truth."

Gilchrist suggested reaching out to those with different opinions.

"Even finding people that disagree with you, and sitting down and having a conversation," she said. "I think we've forgotten how to do that in our country."



Hopkins students and alumni attended the march on Saturday.



M-F 7:00am-5:00pm; Sat & Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

Why erasure poetry deserves to be studied



Bessie Liu
Write Me

As many of you know, here at Hopkins, you can take "Introduction to Fiction and Poetry," (IFP) if you're interested in developing creative writing skills. I enjoy the class; IFP exposes you to a wide range of poems and short stories from different literary eras. But I feel that not enough emphasis is being directed toward more unconventional styles of writing — poetry that doesn't rhyme or follow strict meter, poetry that isn't afraid to delve into complex emotions.

The following will be my attempt to pitch a new form of poetry that I recently learned about and that I think is amazingly refreshing and innovative.

"Found poetry," by definition, is when a poet adapts a previously published source by borrowing words and phrases from that source and creating a new poem. There are several different types that fall under the category of found poetry, but the most interesting and evocative for me was erasure poetry.

An erasure poem is formed by deleting words and letters from a previously written document, which can be anything from previous poems, books and letters to more interesting and unconventional sources like product packaging, junk mail and court transcripts, according to *The Found Poetry Review*.

The poem "Dear Grace" by Collier Nogues is one of my favorite pieces of erasure poetry. Nogues includes the poem as part of her collection of erasures

in her book *The Ground I Stand On Is Not My Ground*, in which she erases primary documents written during the Pacific War, examining the effect of that war on people from the different countries impacted.

In "Dear Grace," Nogues erases the same letter (written in 1942 and addressed from Assistant Attorney General James Rowe Jr. to Grace Tully, the secretary of President Roosevelt) eight times to create a series of eight distinct poems all from the same document.

All of the variations reflect the progressing emotional states of two people separated by war. There's an immense grief and sense of impending doom lingering through all the poems that lies partially in their brevity (erasures are usually not very long).

What snapshots of a relationship Nogues chooses to reveal through her erasures leaves readers asking questions about the speaker and his situation. She keeps the letter format and uses pared-down language in terms of imagery, which is expected since you can't add any images of your own within erasures.

One cool thing about some poets' erasure poetry is that instead of conglomerating their words into the familiar shape of a poem, they leave the spaces where the text has been erased. Some of Nogues' poems online have been designed so that mousing over the empty spaces causes the erased lines and phrases to reappear, allowing you a glimpse of

the original document.

This is an interesting feature of digital poetry that reminds readers of the origins of these poems and that they are intertwined deeply with the source texts.

Of course, the easiest way to visualize what I'm talking about would be to search her poems online. As a side-note, on other websites, you can create your own erasure poems by choosing from pre-uploaded source texts and then clicking on words to make them disappear, in a fun and interactive exploration of the erasure process.

In context, these physical "spaces" within the poem serve an interesting purpose. When read out loud, these spaces force readers to pause between phrases, not only giving them more attention but also giving the piece a desperation and emotional rawness that feels unique to poetry.

Nogues does this especially in the later poems of "Dear Grace," in which she leaves spaces not only between but also within words, a painful representation of the physical distance between the two individuals.

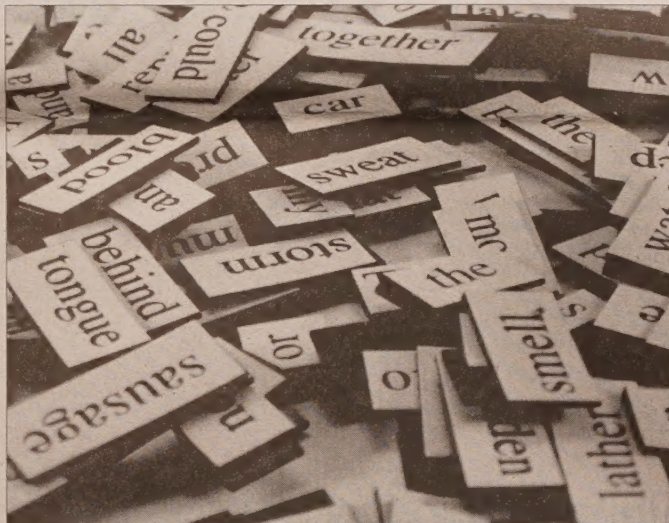
The concept of political erasure is just beginning to take hold as well. In Solmaz Sharif's thought-provoking essay on the political im-

plications of erasure, she draws a parallel between extinguishing words on a pre-existing text and extinguishing people from a pre-existing culture, pointing out that "historically, the striking out of text is the root of obliterating peoples."

The duality of interpretations behind the erasure process leads me to think about how erasing something really just highlights it even more. But perhaps most interesting to me is what Sharif writes about erasure showcasing the "nearly infinite possibilities and infinite centers of a single text."

One reason I wanted to highlight Nogues' poetry in particular is because I know her and have worked with her before. She's the reason why I've come to love writing so much. So as National Poetry Month comes to an end, I'm writing this to say thank you to the woman who first introduced me to contemporary poetry, in all its imagistic and contemplative glory, and to poetry itself for existing.

Finally, I wanted to end with a quote from Paul Engle that I think describes poetry beautifully: "Poetry is ordinary language raised to the Nth power. Poetry is boned with ideas, nerved and blooded with emotions, all held together by the delicate, tough skin of words."



STEVE JOHNSON/CC BY 2.0

Erasure poetry involves removing words from a previously published source text.

The creepy, crawly, carnivorous caterpillar



Meagan Peoples
Think about it

The other day, I was thinking about the feasibility of feeding butterflies buttered flies and, long story short, I was met with the disappointing discovery that there are in fact no strictly carnivorous butterflies. In part, this is due to the fact that, for many species, the butterfly stage of the life cycle is almost entirely focused on reproduction.

It's analogous to the years following puberty in humans (otherwise known as college). However, there is such a thing as a carnivorous caterpillar, though they don't eat flies.

I admit I wasn't always friendly to caterpillars as a kid. They used to build their nests high up in the trees in front of my house, spilling hundreds of the little wrigglers onto our lawn. I was appalled.

My eight-year-old sensibilities told me there was nothing to find but fear in those great masses of writhing bodies. However, if there is anything I can do to make up for my past injustices, it would be to dispel the ignorance surrounding our squishy little friends.

Within the second largest family of butterflies, Lycaenidae, there is a subfamily of rare caterpillars that make up less than one percent of all butterfly species. This subfamily is called Miletinae, and the

caterpillars within it have adapted a unique way to sustain themselves which involves a heart-breaking evolutionary betrayal as well as chemical subterfuge.

But let's start at the beginning. Lycaenidae butterflies, sometimes called gossamer-winged butterflies are known for a few things. Their metallic glossiness, their flat looking larvae and their close association with ants. About 75 percent of the family have some kind of relationship with the hardworking insects.

For some species, the ants actually protect the larvae, in return receiving a sugar-rich honeydew (which is also secreted by aphids, fun fact) from them. With others, the ants will continue protecting the pupa as well.

This means that the post-metamorphosis butterfly actually emerges from an ants nest as well as a cocoon.

Scientists believe that it is through this mutualism that Miletinae

butterflies were able to develop their parasitism. It's basically the evolutionary equivalent of stabbing your best friend in the back... and then eating them.

Lycaenidae butterflies are the proud owners of a tentacular organ. It's cylindrical, topped with spikes, eversible and believed to be the reason that this particular family has such a close association with ants. The organ emits chemical signals that researchers believe help the larva communicate across species boundaries.

Capitalizing on this ability, Miletinae caterpillars cloak themselves using chemical signals which mimic those of the aphid, which ants are drawn to for the honeydew. This means that the caterpillar can be left to live among their prey. It helps that they will often tie, using silk excretions, the dead carcasses of consumed aphids onto their bodies, which helps them to camouflage as well.

And things don't get much better for the ants once the caterpillars leave the nest. Unlike most butterflies, those belonging to the Miletinae subfamily forgo plant nectars, instead partaking in the honeydew secreted by aphids, which their larva feed on as well. However, they will also feed from mineral rich sources such as mushrooms, sap or even mud.

Their carnivorous tendencies are likely why these caterpillars are often referred to as the harvester subfamily. A cool name to match some cool caterpillars.

If I can't convince you that caterpillars deserve your admiration, perhaps someone you actually respect can. Vladimir Nabokov, the Russian-American novelist, was actually an experienced lepidopterist, a collector of butterflies, and curated the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University (probably why they're always beating us in the rankings).

How I plan to promote collaborative journalism in the future



Jacqui Neber
In Review

It's Pulitzer season! On April 11, the most coveted awards in journalism were given to the most outstanding publications and writers in the industry. The Panama Papers, one of the biggest collaborative investigative reporting events since the Pentagon Papers, won this year's Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.

We live in an era of press sabotage, attempted destabilization and absurd exclusion. I don't have to mention Trump's name for you to know who I'm referring to. Given our circumstances, journalists and publications have a responsibility to remain committed and

come together to produce the best work possible. That's what the Panama Papers represent: commitment to our cause.

Poynter wrote about this, of course. Author Melody Kramer writes, "Collaboration has inspired journalism conferences, summits, Pew studies, J-Lab reports, essays and stories on newsrooms working together. [It's] been cited, among other things, as one of the driving forces that could help the news ecosystem."

She then provides 56 examples of journalism partnerships, including the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), the committee that spearheaded the Panama Papers partnerships.

She cites local partnerships and collaborations between journalists and audiences. The 56 partnerships represent continued work beyond the Panama Papers that the industry desperately needs to survive our circumstances. If journalists don't stick together, the industry

could lose its ability to bring important news to the public.

I'm moving into my last weeks as a *News-Letter* Managing Editor. Next year, I'll serve as the Opinions Editor before finally leaving the paper behind after four amazing, difficult, transformative years. Hopefully, for a career in this very field.

This transition into being an Opinions Editor freaks me out. Not because I'll be out of the managerial positions of the newspaper but because I'll be running a section alone, something I've never done. I had three cohorts as a News & Features Editor and one as a Managing Editor. Running a section alone will be a completely new challenge.

I say I'm a natural leader, and I am, but the best journalism is often a group effort. Pitfalls are easy to get stuck in, and gathering different perspectives, opinions and angles on a story is the best way to avoid making mistakes. Collaborative

work is essential. It even wins Pulitzers.

These are my last weeks as a Managing Editor, and these are my last weeks writing as an *In Review* columnist. I'll miss this column. I've enjoyed writing about journalism. Responding industry news makes me feel like part of the industry. Journalism principles, the morals and values that guide our work, are so often applicable to other areas of life that it's easy to bridge a connection between journalism and events that surround us.

While running a section alone will be a new and exciting challenge, being Opinions Editor is also an opportunity to make the position more collaborative. It's an opportunity to manage a new team and bring new perspectives to the section. It's also an opportunity to continue my work on the Editorial Board, which is my favorite part of being Managing Editor.

There is so much that can be done with the Opinions section, and

since I have little experience writing OP/ED pieces, I can't wait to flex new muscles.

Okay. This column isn't all about me. Yes, I have a new section, but that section and our newspaper here at Hopkins are just microcosms of the larger world of journalism. We all have an opportunity to be more collaborative moving forward. Several organizations, papers and individuals have already taken important first steps (not to say that working together for the greater journalistic good is a new idea).

Journalists are often perfectionists in their craft. They are amazing soloists. They push themselves. They can stand alone. However, especially in our current era, we need to work together too. Our industry depends on our efforts.

For more information on current initiatives and collaborations to bring the public the best journalism, visit Poynter and check out Melody Kramer's list.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Why does Trump love military aggression?



Alicia Badea
Political Compass

For all of Trump's campaigning that he would put "America First" and his previously seemingly non-interventionist stance, the current state of American foreign affairs has caught us in tighter, not looser, knots than before.

The fact that the administration's foreign policy seems less of a policy than a collection of vague, explicitly-to-subtextually aggressive statements has only been contributing to this pattern.

The military merits of the January Yemen raid, the punitive April Syrian airstrikes on a military base with chemical weapons and the dropping of the "Mother of All Bombs" on an underground network of Daesh tunnels in Afghanistan are certainly vital questions — and are not less so for the fact that Trump himself gave the

green light for these actions to be carried out.

From a diplomatic standpoint, however, they raise serious concerns about the administration's willingness to deploy military force without having a comprehensive, structured strategy which considers the political implications for the future of American international relations. And, of course, the risk to human lives always looms large as a specter over any military engagement.

The raid in Yemen, for example, was purportedly for the purpose of collecting intelligence on Al-Qaeda. Yet it is unclear whether the information present on the devices which were gathered add to the U.S. intelligence on the terrorist group, despite Sean Spicer's and Trump's assertions. Moreover, the compromised raid resulted in a Navy SEAL's death and the deaths of more than 20 civilians, along with strained relations with the Yemeni government.

The glaring question remains: Why then? That Trump had no scruples in giving the go-ahead for this raid (the plans for which had been developed during the last year of the Obama administration) only five days into his pres-

idency, and with a seeming absence of careful deliberation, indicates a lack of discretion. Of course, he was presented with the operation by military officials, but Trump's own statements that he wants to give the Pentagon greater freedom and independence in making decisions indicate a path that will allow for increased military involvement without a guiding foreign policy.

The airstrike in Syria likewise lacks comprehensive strategic ground. The legal implications of the strike — namely its clear violation of international law and the fact that it certainly poses domestic legal problems — seemed not to factor into the administration's decision.

It may "punish" Syrian President Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons on his own people, but in the context of the greater Syrian crisis, it seems to stop at the level of a slap.

Assad has 26 other military bases from which weapons can be deployed; Daesh remains a complicated perpetrator of terrorism and violence. If the U.S. is unwilling to become further entrenched in the civil war or to combine its efforts with allies to eradicate Daesh, one airstrike comes off more as a show of military power and aggression rather than a dedication to ending war for humanitarian causes.

Indeed, even purporting such a reason seems farcical in the context of Trump's praise of Assad during his campaign and cruelly hypocritical considering the complete barring of Syrian refugees' entry to the U.S. The bombing of Afghanistan gives off the same incredibly distasteful impression of machismo sans strategy.

As Robin Wright observes in her article "Trump Drops the Mother

of All Bombs on Afghanistan" in *The New Yorker*, the bombing, like the Syrian airstrike, "has only underscored the shallowness of U.S. political and diplomatic strategy. The United States has been at war in South Asia since 2001, at the cost of hundreds of billions of dollars.

"Since 2011, it has spent tens of millions in training, arming, and aiding Syrian rebels fighting the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Yet in neither place has Washington figured out how to get beyond killing people — and having to use its biggest bombs."

This willingness to be militarily aggressive while lacking a clear direction and eschewing the importance of diplomacy becomes treacherous in a context like U.S. relations with North Korea.

Rex Tillerson's vague comments, including, "our policy of strategic patience has ended," add to the ominous atmosphere. Trump, Tweeter-in-chief, postures belligerently about America's ability to "solve the problem" of North Korea without China and scolds North Korea for "behaving very badly."

North Korea is not a toddler who spilled milk on the carpet and threw his toys everywhere. It is a country developing increasingly frightening nuclear capabilities with a government willing to threaten their use.

While it is unclear what path North Korea will take, that very uncertainty is in part, along with common sense, what should make the U.S. very careful not to provoke the government with an attitude akin to a schoolboy showing off at recess.

Although foreign policy is undeniably complex, the answer is not military might and machismo.

Heard Around Campus

"I mean, I did pretty well in high school, so I'm sure I'll be fine."

— SOHOP kid

"I just slept for 36 hours, but I think I need a nap."

— Generic college student

"But on the safety walk they said you'd 100 percent die if you're off campus at night."

— A road scholar

"I'm sort of worried that I'm going to get scurvy at some point. I don't think I've had a fruit since a freshman swiped me into the FFC."

— A senior

"There's nothing quite like watching your work ethic deteriorate along with your mental health as the end of the semester approaches. I'm glad I pay to go here."

— Buried under debt

"There's nothing like the taste of regret to start your morning off right."

— Person getting their midterm back

"I've been awake for so long that I think it's important I look up the LD50 of caffeine."

— It's ~150 mg/kg if you were wondering

"I know summer is almost here, but I don't think I'm going to make it."

— Everyone



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION / CC BY 4.0
The Syrian airstrikes responded to the use of chemical weapons.

Just some music that I thought you might like



Juliana Veracka
The Playlist

I am way, way too lazy to come up with an actual theme for this week's playlist. I've been busy lately, and I've kind of been all over the place, as has my music taste, so I thought: Why limit myself? So this list is just going to be a random collection of songs I like, some newish some oldish and mostly from very different genres. My music taste is vast, but then again I think most of ours are. Yet my friends still manage never to agree on which music we like best, so... maybe not.

"Run Boy Run" by Woodkid: I just heard this song for the first time the other day, and it struck me as extremely cinematic. It has very dense, soaring music, but the words are simple and easy to understand. I automatically imagine a scene of someone running through a forest when I listen to it.

"This Means War" by Marianas Trench: I love the tune of this song. It's upbeat and super catchy. I find it uplifting not only of the music, but also because it's about coming back to a relationship after not seeing someone for a while (and not necessarily a particularly healthy relationship).

"Heaven is A Place on Earth" by Belinda Carlisle: Not going to lie, I put this here because it was in that one *Black Mirror* episode "San Junipero." For evermore my mind will associate this song with queer women in love, and I think that's beautiful. If you haven't seen any episodes of *Black Mirror*, it's on Netflix (though maybe read up on it before you watch; it's definitely not for everyone).

"Bent" by Matchbox Twenty: I reconnected with this song a couple days ago when I heard it on the radio in a Lyft car. I honestly had no idea how many Matchbox Twenty/Rob Thomas songs I knew, but it feels like I'm always coming across another one that I remember hearing years ago. I like the chorus the most, and I tolerate the rest (who else has songs that make them feel like that?).

"M.I.N.E (End This Way)" by Five Finger

Death Punch: I don't think I've put many metal songs on my lists, but it's a genre I ironically love. There's something about the hardcore guitar and angsty (or just plain angry) lyrics that I appreciate no matter what my mood. I understand it's a genre that's not for everyone, but I actually just found this song yesterday, and I've listened to it a lot since then, so I felt compelled to add it.

"Wop" by J. Dash: I recently watched the film *Bande de Filles* (directed by Céline Sciamma... I recommend checking it out), and a couple of characters dance to this song at one point. When I heard it I thought it sounded familiar, so I naturally had to look it up. I feel like it was a thing, once, a while ago,

very briefly — so here it is again, I guess!

"Sleazy" by Ke\$ha: This is just a really fun party song. I feel like we could all use some Ke\$ha in our lives every once in a while, right? It's one I listened to for the first a long time ago but recently rediscovered, and I actually kind of like it more now than I did then.

"Somewhere Only We Know" by Keane: I'm sure you all know this song. I figured it was a nice, gentle way to round out this list. It's sort of slow, sentimental and almost comforting. I also like the Lily Allen version, if you're interested in different covers. In fact, it's possible that I've put that one on a playlist before.



Becky Sullivan / CC BY 2.0
Veracka likes the party atmosphere that a good Ke\$ha song brings.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

The University should divest from fossil fuels

A group of student activists, Refuel Our Future, has been pressuring Hopkins for six years to remove its investments in fossil fuels from the University's endowment. In response to Refuel's recent formal proposal to the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC), the Office of the Provost hosted the JHU Forum on Divestment from Fossil Fuels on Monday.

Four experts spoke at the forum: two for divestment and two against. Representatives of Hopkins, led by University President Ronald J. Daniels, and concerned members of the community listened to the four panelists, all of whom believe in climate change.

The Editorial Board is in favor of full divestment from fossil fuels. We commend both Refuel Our Future for their long fight to get the administration to acknowledge the movement and also the administration for not only listening to students' concerns but for bringing experts to campus. The Editorial Board praises Provost Sunil Kumar for organizing the event and Daniels for demonstrating respect by attending the entire forum.

Speaker Ellen Dorsey, executive director of the Wallace Global Fund, made a strong case for divestment. Hopkins is a mission-based organization and she argued that fighting climate change is a necessary part of that mission.

Climate change is the greatest threat to our future. In order to "bring the benefits of discovery" to the world, as our mission statement says, the University must take a principled stand against the fossil fueled past and toward the

bright, green future.

As the global leader in public health, Hopkins as an institution cannot afford to ignore climate change any longer. The research of Hopkins professors in Earth & Planetary Sciences and Environmental Health and Engineering has helped shape — and close — the debate on climate change. Hopkins must respect the work of its own professors, or no one else will.

The divestment movement is spreading around the world. Rather than hopping on the bandwagon as more and more organizations divest from fossil fuels, Hopkins should spearhead the movement, acting as an example for other universities.

The Editorial Board agrees with Dorsey that, over time, investment in fossil fuels is not only amoral, but also will damage the long-term profitability of our endowment. By 2050, consumption of fossil fuels hopefully will be negligible, and the industry's profitability will have collapsed.

The University's mission of progress will never end, so why rely on a fossil fuel industry with an expiration date? Hopkins should not only divest, but reinvest in clean energies that will become more profitable over time.

Speaker Frank Wolak, an economist at Stanford, completely dismissed Refuel and Dorsey's moral arguments, saying that they are not "factual." But the moral argument can't be ignored.

Millions of people have died and more will die as a result of disastrous climate change, and without intervention it will only

get worse. The fossil fuel industry has poisoned the planet irreversibly, and Hopkins must take a stand against the destruction of our home.

The fossil fuel industry has lied about climate change to protect its profit. Because it has paid certain academics to deny human-caused climate change, the University should not trust it, or fund it.

Hopkins has divested in the past both from tobacco and partially from the apartheid regime in South Africa. Both of these movements wound down after they achieved their goal. One divestment didn't immediately lead to another. The University should not worry that Refuel's victory would immediately spark endless debate over the endowment.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of one of the University's shining successes, the Center for Social Concern, we encourage Hopkins to continue to demonstrate the importance it places on the welfare of communities both on campus and around the world. To continue that vision it must divest completely from an industry that is hurting not only our present, but also our future.

Divestment is not only about reducing the measurable amount of emissions. It is about the University finally standing with scientists — our scientists — and encouraging a progressive and sustainable social vision.

As a powerful and influential University with a significant endowment, now is the time to take the sound economic and moral stand and divest from fossil fuels.

Give students resources, not guidelines, for free expression

Dean of Student Life Terry Martinez recently released the Interim Student Guidelines for the Protection of Public Expression, intended to provide resources for Hopkins students who might be new to protesting.

The guidelines also aim to prevent protests from taking place in spaces that other groups have already reserved. The guidelines have since received backlash from student groups, who published a piece in last week's *News-Letter*.

As student journalists dedicated to free expression, the Editorial Board condemns these guidelines. While we understand that they are only "guidelines" and are not meant to be coercive, placing constraints on free expression is antithetical to the concept. The phrase "guidelines on free expression" is an

oxymoron.

The Editorial Board believes that if student groups want the administration's advice on holding protests, they should get it. But the University needs to reframe these guidelines as a list of resources available to students.

Any language that may be construed as coercive needs to be removed, and it must be clear to the student body that following these guidelines is not mandatory or expected.

University President Ronald J. Daniels and Martinez say that they support student protest, and they have an obligation to make that clear in the following drafts of these guidelines.

It is heartening that Martinez has expressed interest in meeting with Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)

and other concerned student groups to address their reservations.

Martinez articulated that the guidelines are intended to avoid disturbing educational activities at Hopkins, but it is important to note that the very point of protesting is to disturb and to make people listen.

The University must also clarify the position of contract workers within the document. They have played a central role in on-campus protests this year, and while contract workers are not technically Hopkins employees, they are part of the Hopkins community and deserve the same rights as student protesters.

The Editorial Board hopes the University will make the necessary changes in order to accomplish its goals and ensure free expression on campus remains free.

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OPINIONS

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Sexual assault at college: Confronting the rapists in our lives

By MADDIE KING

A study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that one in five undergraduate women will experience sexual assault while in college. That means you probably know someone who was raped at Hopkins. It also means you probably know a rapist.

They're in our classes, our frats, our dining halls and our friend groups. And yet this reality remains conspicuously absent from our conversations about campus sexual assault.

In 2015 activists at Columbia University projected the words "Rape Happens Here" on the doors of the campus library. The phrase describes rape in the passive voice, reduced to the experience of trauma. There is an action but no cause, a school full of victims but no one who's responsible.

Students in distress looking to support a friend who has experienced sexual assault can find answers from an abundance of available resources, but there's

no instruction manual that tells you what to do when the rapist is someone you know.

The identities of rapists on this campus have become a sort of open secret, their names whispered in support groups or the bathroom at PJ's. How do students navigate their interactions with the rapists who walk among us? How do you respond when someone you know, like or even trust has committed sexual assault? I spoke with students about this unspoken reality, and while I offer no solutions, I hope that by sharing a variety of experiences and responses, we can begin to find the answers together. So... you think your friend's a rapist?

Denial

The most obvious and common response is denial. Not all denial looks the same; There are many ways to avoid acknowledging a rape. Sometimes that denial is active and explicit: the assumption that the victim is lying. Sometimes it's more subtle. Denial can manifest in the façade of objectivity, the refusal to jump to conclusions and the

classification of the nature of the encounter as ultimately unknowable.

Denial can take the form of a polite refusal to pry further about a sensitive topic or the compartmentalization of the event as irrelevant to your relationship with the accused.

Denial manifests in language. You'll call your friend "creepy" or "aggressive with girls when he gets drunk," but he's not a rapist. The identification of rape becomes murkier when considering the complicating effects of alcohol and inexperience on consent. In the context of cultural normalization of ambiguously consensual encounters, rapes can easily be explained away as unfortunate misunderstandings.

The impulse to deny the assault is understandable. When the options are to pretend the assault never happened or denounce a close friend as a criminal, more often than not, denial wins out. Acknowledging the validity of the assault threatens to fundamentally shatter your understanding of your friend, yourself and the moral order of the world.

How do we reconcile our positive experiences of the rapist with the evil of their action? Does the rape define them? Does it negate all previous acts of kindness? Was the foundation of your



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We need to come to terms with the fact that even our close friends could rape.

friendship based on a lie? If our identities are shaped by the company we keep, we fear what it means to associate with someone who did something so terrible. We feel guilty and ashamed to have been so close to someone and not seen their capacity for abuse. When acknowledging the validity of the rape begets emotional upheaval and crisis of conscience, it's no wonder so many choose to turn a blind eye.

Desexualization of Rape

Our unwillingness to label seemingly good people as rapists is derived in part from the desexualization of rape in mainstream rhetoric. In her groundbreaking 1975 best-seller, *Against our Will*, Susan Brownmiller argues that "rape is not about sex, but about power." Sex is a "weapon to generate fear" rather than the crime's motive.

To author Kate Millett, rape is an act of domination, born from "the emotions of hatred, contempt and the desire to break or violate personality." At the time this rhetoric was revolutionary. It was a paradigm shift that reframed rape as a political issue and distinguished rape from consensual sex. This rhetoric also served to increase resources for and recognition of trauma recovery for survivors.

But in the process, the humanity of the crime was lost. Other crimes, no matter how heinous, have rational motives rooted in our humanity: rage, jealousy, greed, desire. Sexual offenses are a category all of their own. Stripped of any reasonable cause, rape becomes a deviant expression of pure evil, a deliberate, hostile act of degradation and cruelty for its own sake. Rape is not a human activity but a crime of monsters.

The dehumanization of the rapist has visible, often racist, implications in our legal system, as judges and juries are hesitant to label seemingly normal people, like the now infamous Brock Turner, as rapists.

For accountability, we need to acknowledge that seemingly normal people can be rapists, and to do that, we need to expand our understanding of why people commit rape. Activist and writer Wendy McElroy once wrote, "There can be as many motives for rape as there are for murder and other violent crimes." Insisting that no rape is ever about sex does a disservice to our ability to address rape and rapists with the sobriety and clarity the topic deserves.

Rape Culture on Campus

If we accept that men (and people of all genders) who are capable of rape often look and act exactly like those who aren't, we must also accept that the people we know might be rapists. This is an extremely uncomfortable realization.

What are the moral implications of being friends with a rapist? Are you condoning their behavior by maintaining the friendship? How can sur-

vivors feel legitimized in their feelings when their rapist continues to be embraced by their community?

Many of the students I talked to expressed frustration and disgust with the hypocrisy of those who attend feminist marches and Bystander Intervention Training but remain uncritical of the rapists in their own circles. On a campus where disciplinary or legal action for sexual assault is uncommon, is social banishment the best way to hold rapists accountable?

The desire to cut off contact with the rapists in our life presents another moral dilemma: how to respect the wishes of the survivor. In many ways, a rape can feel like a crime against a friendship and a betrayal of a community's trust. The initial impulse when you learn that someone you know has committed sexual assault might be to tell your friends, to warn others, to show the rapist that you know what they did and you don't think it's okay. But it's important to remember that sexual assault is a crime against an individual.

Not all survivors want their experience to become public knowledge (and thus susceptible to public scrutiny). Without their explicit consent, this could be re-traumatizing. When navigating interactions with the rapists in your life, respecting the survivor must be the ultimate priority.

Moving Forward

So how do we deal with the rapists in our life without creating excuses for their crimes or disrespecting the survivors?

I don't really know. But one thing is clear, our unwillingness to engage in uncomfortable dialogue does nothing but protect predators. Combating rape culture means engaging in frank conversations. Take the voices of survivors seriously: Erroneous rape accusations are extremely rare. Talk to your friends about toxic masculinity and the objectification of women. Talk to your friends about consent, not just about the straightforward, official understanding but about its uncomfortably nuanced aspects as well.

What does consent mean when drinking is involved? Reflect on your own sexual encounters: Are there any that might not have been entirely consensual? If you're unsure, it might be beneficial to gently contact your former sexual partners. Ask your friends about their sexual encounters too.

Don't be afraid to ask more questions when something doesn't seem quite right. You might not want to hear the answers, you might find out some uncomfortable truths about your friends, but refusing to ask these questions won't make the reality disappear.

Someone you know is a rapist, and ignoring that for the sake of convenience or comfort doesn't make it any less true.

Maddie King is a senior International Studies major from New York City.

The Hopkins administration must back off

By THEODORE KUPFER

Ever take a campus tour? Even if you haven't, you know what it's like: your friends walking backwards, cutting quickly through Brody while ignoring the palpable malaise, telling you how many student-run groups there are — more than 400! It turns out that 20 hours per week on B-level isn't too attractive to 11th graders, but the chance to lead monthly canoeing trips or work on the largest student-run fair in the country might be.

This is more than just a strategy used by overworked tour guides to gussy Hopkins up: It's an attitude that shapes school policy. Among University President Ronald J. Daniels' top priorities, outlined in the latest of his glitzy named strategic plans, is to "Build Johns Hopkins' undergraduate experience so it stands among the top ten in the nation."

The generalization, "experience," is operative here; After all, *U.S. News & World Report* takes a holistic approach to its rankings. So Hopkins, despite its reputation as an academic powerhouse, loves to brag about its perks.

Unfortunately, the school's investments in those perks often wind up making the University worse. This is because it has fallen into a dangerous trap, that of over-administration. Take, for example, student life outside of academics.

Reporting by *The News-Letter*

ter found that 10 percent of the University's budget is spent funding Homewood Student Affairs (HSA). But what does the school have to show for that \$57 million investment?

You might try asking the Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium (MSE) (of which I was co-chairperson last semester) or the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS). After the student executives of these two groups had secured Senator Bernie Sanders as a speaker, HSA waded into their operations.

Associate Dean of Student Engagement Tiffany Sanchez insisted that MSE and FAS compromise their first-come, first-serve ethos and require that every attendee have a ticket. The Deans naturally stipulated that the tickets had to be purchased on the school's proprietary ticketing system, causing a boondoggle with which the reader is surely familiar.

Or you might ask the Hopkins Organization for Programming (the HOP), which, thanks to HSA's new branding policy implemented by Director of Student Leadership and Involvement Kirsten Fricke, may be forced to sacrifice its acronym or change its name. Or ask Spring Fair, which, just weeks away from the fair itself, has jockeyed with administrators over the location of its food quad. Or ask Johns Hopkins European Horizons, or the Johns Hopkins Jail Tutorial Project, or any student group with "Hopkins" in its name.

I don't speak for any of these

organizations. But I know firsthand the challenge of running a student group, and I also know that this challenge is compounded when faraway administrators involve themselves. It's public choice theory applied at the University level: Give bureaucrats power, and they'll do anything to show their utility.

Hence the \$57 million to mandate seat reservations and force the Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club (JHOC) to become the Outdoors Club at Johns Hopkins (OCJH): See, we streamlined the Brand, so we're useful.

This is an important issue, because administrative bloat doesn't just affect student life. Graduate student Arash Abazari says the near-closure of the Humanities Center by Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Beverly Wendland suggests that at Hopkins, administrative interests even trump academic ones.

Never mind that the Humanities Center has a storied history; Forget its graduate students pursuing idiosyncratic but useful research; Ignore the necessity of a comparative literature program to the humanities. Faraway deans saw eliminating the Humanities Center as an opportunity. See, we cut costs, so we're useful.

We students ought to care too, because we foot the bill. Political Science Professor Benjamin Ginsberg connects the rise in tuition costs at American universities to the rise in administrative expenditures. These deans are good at proving their use, so they're good at keeping their jobs, and they're good at expanding their departments. All of that goodness amounts to little more than mounds of debt.

This is a remarkable institution that does many things well. But its management of student affairs is not one of them, nor is its support of smaller academic pursuits. The point is not that anything needs to be done about student affairs or the Humanities Center. It is precisely the opposite.

Devolve power to the people most familiar with these endeavors. Students and faculty are the backbone of this school. Give them money, and get out of the way.

Theodore Kupfer is a senior philosophy major from Camp Hill, Pa.



IRACAZ/PUBLIC DOMAIN

The administration was too controlling of Bernie Sanders' visit to Shriver Hall.

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APRIL 20, 2017



Arts & Entertainment

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YOUR WEEKEND APRIL 20 - 23

Events in Baltimore Should you go to an O's or Nats game? this weekend

Thursday

A Short Reunion, Single Carrot Theater, 8 p.m.

The premier of multiple plays by local playwrights on a walking tour through Remington. Each ticket comes with a complimentary beer, wine or soft drink. Student tickets are \$10.

Friday

Queen of Katwe Book Talk and Signing, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 6:30 p.m.

A talk lead by writers of the novel, inspired by the story of a young girl who escapes poverty in Uganda to become a chess prodigy. Tickets \$8.

Pair of Dice, Title:Point and The Psychic Readings Co., 8 p.m.

Pair of Dice is a theatrical event centering around two twin sisters. It pays homage to early science fiction and horror radio shows. \$10, \$8 if you and a partner come dressed identically.

Saturday

Bloom the Boulevard, Pigtown Main Street, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day in Pigtown by engaging in their fifth annual community cleanup effort. Plant trees, collect litter and more! Event is free, with lunch provided. All Baltimore residents who participate receive a free credit towards their household water bill.

Mortified Baltimore!, The Ideal Arts Space, 8 p.m.

Join comedians as they detail some of their most mortifying moments: love letters, handwritten lyrics, home movies and more. 21+. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Sunday

Bike to Little Havana for Brunch, Race Pace Bicycles Key Hwy, 10 a.m.

Join the American Visionary Arts Museum and Race Pace Bicycles for a ride of the Kinetic Sculpture Race route, which goes thorough Federal Hill, the Inner Harbor, Harbor East and Canton. The ride is free and will end in Little Havana for brunch. A percentage of brunch sales will benefit the Kinetic Sculpture Race.

By NATHAN BICK
For The News-Letter

Here at Hopkins we have an unusual and special opportunity. While it's clear that this school's academic and research opportunities are top notch and of course there are many other opportunities, that is not what I'm talking about.

Rather, we have the ability to easily see two baseball teams: one American League team, the hometown Baltimore Orioles, and one National League team, the next-door Washington Nationals.

Oriole Park at Camden Yards is famous nationwide for having initiated the trend of returning to the style of the midcentury ballparks over the past 25 years or so.

Oriole Park is modeled after Fenway Park and Wrigley Field as well as their demolished counterparts in other cities. The ballpark is comfortable and boasts good food options. The Orioles also offers a nice student discount on Fridays.

The ballpark eating options feature the typical hotdogs and crackerjacks. Natty Boh beer is also served in a true display of Baltimore pride.

The park is right next to the Inner Harbor, so a combined visit to both is a great way to spend the day and night.

Nationals Park is a relatively new ballpark, which makes sense given that the

Nationals franchise is barely over 10 years old.

The park takes cues from the tradition established by Oriole Park. The views from the stands are great; You can see the frenetic pace of construction in the Navy Yard neighborhood of D.C. as well as a glimpse of the U.S. Capitol.

The Nationals don't have the same student discounts that the Orioles do, but the opportunity to make a day trip to D.C. to see the monuments or to enjoy the vibrant city life is well worth it. Using the MARC train or driving, if possible, is relatively convenient when leaving from Baltimore.

Nationals Park has traditional ballpark food as well, but there are some unique and punny options like The Steak of the Union.

Be sure to pay attention to the famous Presidents Race: In the middle of one of the early innings, big bobble-headed mascots in the form of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and sometimes other presidents run a race along the side of the field.

Teddy is the crowd favorite, and the Presidents Race may be more beloved than the seventh inning stretch. The characters of the two cities come out in the fan bases of each city's respective team, and so the environment in each of these two ballparks is distinct.

The Orioles franchise is storied and enjoys a well-



COURTESY OF NATHAN BICK

An action shot at Nationals Park in D.C. as the Nats are up to bat.

established fan base that goes back several generations in many native Baltimore families.

The Nationals franchise is much younger and only recently has it fielded teams worth following, so the fans are often new to baseball or are converts from other teams.

Baltimore is a more native-heavy city than Washington, D.C., which has a large population of transplants from around the country. These characteristics combine to create a down-to-earth, cozy, of-the-people environment within Oriole Park, and a yuppie-infused, hip and trendy vibe within Nationals Park, although in both cases this is an oversimplification.

A similarity between the fans of each club is

their relationship with the fans of some of the more premier franchises in each respective division, the NL East for the Nats and the AL East for the O's.

Orioles fans have to deal with fans of the Yankees and the Red Sox, the two top teams by far. Nats fans have to deal with Phillies, Mets and Braves fans.

In particular, Phillies fans can regularly be seen attending Nats games, often to the point where Nats games against the Phillies don't look like home games.

The Orioles will always have the popularity of the two most popular baseball teams in the world to deal with. However, their hometown spirit is all their own.

Baltimore and D.C. offer many Earth Day activities

By HANNAH MELTON
For The News-Letter

Saturday is inching closer, and I know what you're all thinking: It's mother-loving EARTH DAY, my friends! (And yes, it also happens to be Homecoming, for those of you still proudly waving that school spirit. I salute you.)

Earth Day is one of those lovely American holidays with all of the excuses to party but none of the bullshit expenses. No one expects you to buy presents, put up with relatives, eat a gross amount of chocolate or put effort into a costume.

Instead, Earth Day remains a pure, undemanding celebration of our lovely planet. Go as hard or be as chill as you'd like. The only requirement? Do your part not to kill our host.

In light of this very exciting, often-underrated holiday, here are this year's hottest Earth Day events to help you plan one epic cele-birthday for Mother Nature.

Thursday evening, get a double-header hit of some awesome environmental films. At 5 p.m. drop by Mason Auditorium to see *Cowsspiracy* and sample some delish vegan dishes.

Then, at 7 p.m., head out to the freshman quad (or Remsen if the rain is being a jerk), and enjoy *How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things the Climate Can't Change*, brought to you under the stars by JHOC and OMA.

Friday afternoon you'll find the ever-popular DIY Terrarium

Workshop event on the Beach from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

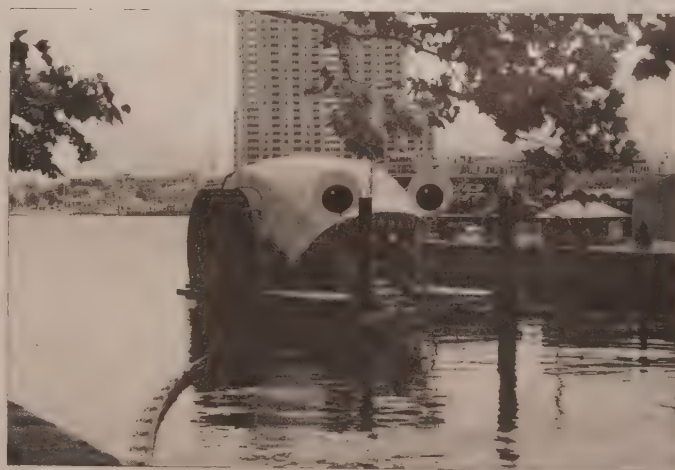
Arrive early, as this HOP event frequently runs out of succulents. At 8 p.m. on Friday, start your night off with an environmentally conscious jam at WJHU's Fair Trade Coffeehouse and Open Mic at Bamboo Café.

This brings us to the big day itself. Saturday is sure to be bustling with Homecoming spirit, but don't forget the real meanin' of the season!

There's a myriad of events occurring all over Baltimore city, but perhaps the most newsworthy in the Mid-Atlantic will be the March for Science in Washington, D.C., beginning at 8 a.m. You can join some of the smartest people in the nation and show your support for science and the planet.

You'll need an early MARC train, so be sure to check the timetables in advance, as they run less often on the weekends.

Like March for Science on Facebook for all the deets, and if you see Bill Nye, please give him my love. The National Zoo in D.C. will be hosting an Earth Optimism day, with a scavenger



MATTHEW BELLEMARE CC-BY-SA 2.0

The iconic Mr. Trash Wheel rises up out of the Inner Harbor, just across from Pier Six.

hunt and other scintillating and oh-so-green enviro-events.

More new experiences await for those brave enough to venture out to Columbia: The Merriweather Post Pavilion will be hosting an Earth Day Drum Circle from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tickets are just \$20 for a day full of unifying drumming and collectively great vibes. Artists will span from fusion jazz to community drumming, R&B and Bluegrass. BYO drum, or rent one at the event. You'll likely have to find a friend with a car to get there, but it will definitely be worth it.

Back in Baltimore, you'll find special Earth Day events at the National Aquarium from 9 a.m. to close.

Land more your style? Check out Earth Day Litterbugs at the Carrie Murray Nature Center in Leakin Park, just a short bike ride or grab a Lyft from campus. Take

a hike, clean up litter from the trail and stream and then use it to make repurposed art. The event is free and runs from 9 a.m. to noon.

For those 21+, cap the night off with the hottest ticket in town: Mr. Trash Wheel's Lost Python Ale launch party, a brilliant collaboration between Peabody Heights Brewery and Healthy Harbor.

Though the \$35 entry fee may feel a bit steep, it becomes more than worth it when you take advantage of the all you can drink beer between 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The event will feature live music and even more lively attendees.

Better yet? The incredible commemorative pint glass, featuring Mr. Trash Wheel himself. Save \$5 by buying a ticket in advance; more details available on their Facebook page.

So don't forget to celebrate the Earth in style this weekend, both on campus and off.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

William Cashion talks The Far Field tour DAMN. fails to move Kendrick forward



FLORIAN KOPPE/CC-BY-SA 4.0

Future Islands' William Cashion has garnered comparisons to Peter Hook of Joy Division and New Order.

By KATHERINE LOGAN
Staff Writer

The Baltimore-based band Future Islands kicked off the tour for their new album *The Far Field* with a release party at the Ottobar on Friday, April 7, followed by an additional three night residency at the venue.

William Cashion, who plays bass and electric guitar, has been deemed Future Islands' "not-so-secret weapon" by *Consequence of Sound*. He has also been compared to bassist Peter Hook of Joy Division and New Order.

This week, I had the opportunity to discuss Future Islands' arduous path to success, what the Baltimore music scene has meant to them and more.

After the group formed in Greenville, N.C. while attending East Carolina University, Future Islands relocated to Baltimore around late 2007 in hopes of engaging in the growing art scene.

"We were going up largely because of the music and arts scene. Dan Deacon opened that door for us and introduced us to that whole world of Baltimore," Cashion said, "I remember playing shows in Baltimore in 2007, and it

really felt like something was happening in the city. It felt different and real, and we wanted to be a part of it."

The band was pleasantly surprised by the warm hearted, collaborative atmosphere they encountered upon arriving in Baltimore.

"The best part about Baltimore is the people. We were used to a more competitive environment from the North Carolina scene and in general," he said. "At the time that we moved there, Baltimore was getting a lot of press for the music scene, and we didn't want people to think that we were jumping on the bandwagon."

Cashion explained how the Baltimore community subverted their expectations.

"We felt like we had to really prove ourselves, and we were met with open arms from the scene, which was really encouraging," he said. "That's something unique about Baltimore: All the artists and musicians in the city really lift each other up and try to help each other out in any way that they can, whereas in a lot of places it's the opposite."

According to Cashion, the Ottobar shows were a unique opportunity to mark the beginning of a

new chapter for Future Islands and to give back to the Baltimore community.

"I think those shows were really special for us. In a way, it kicked off *The Far Field* tour. It was a really cool way to stamp the beginning of this new album," he said. "It was awesome because for *Singles* we didn't do a big album-release show in Baltimore. For *On the Water* and *In Evening Air* and even for our first album, *Wave Like Home*, we had a big album-release party in Baltimore. So it felt good to get back to kicking things off there."

Future Islands' fan base has grown exponentially since their viral *Late Show* performance of "Seasons (Waiting On You)" off of *Singles*, enabling them to play for much bigger audiences and book them top-tier

spots on lineups for summer festivals such as Coachella and Bonnaroo. However, the band strives to stay true to their roots, maintaining the same strong work ethic and attitude.

"We've always considered ourselves a punk band in the way that we do things on our own and in our own way. I think our goal is to just stay true to who we are as a band. We don't want to change," Cashion said. "There are bigger stages and larger audiences, but we're trying to keep our focus the same. The same thing goes with the new record and the way we wrote it. We just want to keep going the same way we always have without changing too much, at least at this point."

While there are a couple of standout dates that Cashion is looking forward to playing in North America during the coming tour, he and his fellow band-members are most excited for the places that they haven't had the opportunity to travel to before.

"We're playing Bonnaroo this year. I'm really curious to go there because we've never played it before, and I've been hearing about it for years and years. So I'm really curious to see what that's all about over there," he said. "Also, we're playing in Asheville at The Orange Peel. I haven't been there in a while, so I'm pretty excited to play that

SEE ISLANDS, PAGE B5

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

DAMN. is a strong album that only suffers because it comes off the heels of a near-perfect album that I believe will come to define the 2010s. The album has verses and production that not only sets it apart from the other rap albums that were released this year but also those released last year.

Kendrick Lamar has crafted at least three highly regarded albums this decade (four if you're a big *Overly Dedicated* fan). *Section.80*, *good kid, m.A.A.d city* and *To Pimp A Butterfly* each built upon the success of the previous album. *Section.80* built on the strengths of *Overly Dedicated*. The biggest problem with *DAMN.* is that it doesn't really build on the success of *To Pimp A Butterfly*.

Yet, I should talk about what *DAMN.* does well first. The production is impeccable, there are moments throughout this album that feel lush and sensual in a way that I thought Kendrick would never achieve, and there are also callbacks to previous moments in his career.

"DNA." is such a strong way to start the album. The erratic flow that feels like rounds dropping at a gun range keeps you on your toes. The production by Mike

Will Made-It's beat gives it a poppy feel that speeds up into pure insanity.

The next highlight is "ELEMENT," which carries a foreboding vibe throughout its intro as Kendrick raps, "I been stomped in front of my momma, my daddy commissary made into commas."

Moments like this make the album feel like a triumph, a victory lap that feels well-deserved.

"DUCKWORTH." features the best bars on the album. The song tells the tale of a chance meeting between his label's CEO (Top Dawg) and his father years ago. His father used to work at KFC and Top Dawg nearly killed him, but chose to let him live due to earlier kindness. The song paints a vivid picture that makes it feel as if the events of the song are occurring right in front of you.

The track is produced by 9th Wonder, and it feels amazing with three beat switches throughout the song's 4:09 runtime. The song's center revolves around a luscious sample of Hiatus Kaiyote's (who everyone should give a listen to) "Atari." The track ends with a gunshot and "re-winds" back to the beginning of the album, "BLOOD."

"GOD." is another large highlight for the album. The song takes the

SEE LAMAR, PAGE B5

Analyzing Disney's first openly-gay character

By JACOB TOOK
Staff Writer

When Disney announced that *Beauty and the Beast* would feature their first openly gay character, the response on social media was explosive. Many fans were excited to finally see some diversity in a company that has recently come under fire for exclusionary practices.

Others were apprehensive. They wondered whether the character, LeFou, would be portrayed accurately or would enforce negative stereotypes.

Well before the film even came out, people worried that LeFou's sexuality would be the butt of the movie's jokes. Additionally, there was concern that the character, regardless of his sexuality, would be portrayed negatively because of his role in the story as the antagonist's sidekick.

These concerns were

valid. After all, Disney has a history of queer-coding villains (Ursula, anyone?). There is no doubt that the company has had a complicated relationship with many minorities during its long history.

Now, it was one thing to see those reactions before the film came out, because it was all based on speculation back then. I was still hopeful that Disney would get this character right. However, after *Beauty and the Beast* premiered, I saw more of the same complaints online and was disappointed.

Still, I figured I'd better go see it for myself, and I was surprised by how tastefully LeFou's sexuality was portrayed.

Admittedly, I'm not sure whether their attempt to make him a more active character paid off, because his role in the story felt a bit forced. However, giving him a half-baked redemption arc in which



VOICE CHASERS/CC-BY-2.0

Josh Gad plays LeFou in the 2017 remake of *Beauty and the Beast*.

he realizes that Gaston is wrong was far preferable to him ending up sad and alone and evil or, worse yet, killed off.

Let's back up a bit. In the beginning of the film, LeFou is clearly crushing on Gaston. Now, showing a gay character unrequitedly in love with a straight

guy isn't ideal. However, the references to LeFou's feelings at the beginning of the film aren't overt, and they don't frame him as a pathetic gay guy who audiences should be laughing at. Instead, jokes about his pursuit of Gaston's romance are appropriate and funny.

They add a dimension to his character that was absent in the original film: He doesn't just mindlessly serve Gaston. Instead, he is a bit wrapped up in his feelings at the beginning and slowly comes to realize, after seeing Gaston abuse Belle's father, that his pursuits might be misguided.

I was also pleased that he didn't embody gay stereotypes that have become pervasive in television and film. He wasn't a queenie,

SEE LEFOU, PAGE B5

A look at the making of The News-Letter podcast

Morgan Ome
Guest Columnist

If the last year has proven anything, it is that podcasts are steadily becoming more and more trendy. In 2016, more Americans than ever listened to podcasts and for good reason.

They are accessible, convenient to listen to, and given the plethora of available podcasts, there is guaranteed to be a show for everyone. People simply have to download an episode, slip in a pair of headphones and listen as the program whisks them away.

Making a podcast, however, is a little more challenging. And yet this semester, *The News-Letter* released its first podcast, called *The News-Cast*. How did we do it? Let me explain.

Last semester, one of my fellow editors, Rollin Hu, brought up the idea of a *News-Letter* podcast.

An avid podcast listener myself, I quickly agreed. Growing up, I listened to the radio on a daily basis while eating breakfast, sitting in the car or doing the dishes.

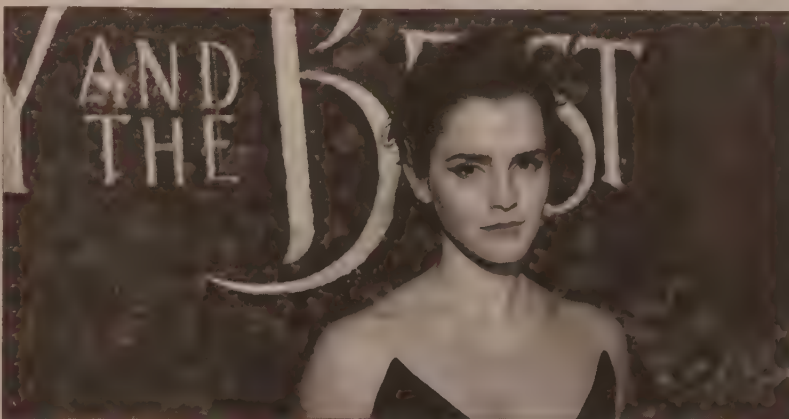
Audio journalism is one of my favorite mediums to obtain information. Since middle school, I've become a fan of many podcasts like *This American Life*, *Radiolab* and *Fresh Air*. As the number of shows continues to grow, so does the number of podcast subscriptions in my iTunes library.

So, when presented with the opportunity to make a podcast — something that is an integral part of my life — I had no hesitations.

It didn't matter that I didn't know how to use recording equipment or construct a narrative flow or really know the first thing about podcasting. I was just excited to start.

Rollin and I talked to Editors-in-Chiefs Amanda Auble and Will Anderson about the possibility of starting a

SEE PODCAST, PAGE B4



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Beauty and the Beast lead actress Emma Watson praised the film's introduction of a gay character.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Playboi Carti releases long-awaited debut



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

Ever since he came out with *Awful Records* and *A\$AP Mob*, Playboi Carti has been the greatest rapper to never release an album, apart from *Jay Electronica* of course.

His 2015 single "Broke Boi" was a definitive track in the canon of what I will optimistically call the Dadaist, anti-lyrical rap trend. It flourished, but it was just a single. The tape we all thought might follow it up never materialized. Instead, Carti just did features, released some loose singles and dressed well for Instagram.

Last year, we were blessed with some Carti features on A\$AP's latest collective venture, *Cozy Tapes Vol. 1: Friends* and talk of a possible Carti album was reignited for probably the 20th time. As the months passed, the excitement faded, and Carti was once again consigned to the Atlantan wilderness from which he so rarely emerged. Little did we know, a mild yet deeply drug-addled storm was brewing, a storm which broke on Thursday, April 13: The album finally arrived.

This self-titled debut was probably the most passively waited-for album of the last several years. Now that it is finally here, I am happy to report that it is everything we could have hoped for. Let me put it this way: If Xanax made a sound, this would be it. *Playboi Carti* is all about the same simple, lazy raps and hard-hitting but bizarre beats that made Carti's singles great.

Playboi Carti is pretty much par for the course as far as this brand of art-trap rap is concerned. The lyrics — which are frankly irrelevant, because what makes this music great is the rhythmic syntax and the beats — are entirely concerned with women, codeine, money and fashion, but mostly money.

The songs are generally 60 percent ad-libs with the other 40 percent being the hook. This means that they are easily sung along to, which means that they have good potential to be something you can scream incoherently when you are blackout drunk. These are all very good things.

The beats are likely the album's biggest strength. Carti teams up with the big names like Harry Fraud on "Location" and



Playboi Carti has wowed Will Kirsch. He may even be better than a Tupac and Biggie collaboration.

Southside on "Half & Half" (which is probably my second favorite song on the album) and "Kelly K," but the best production is courtesy of Atlanta producer Pierre Bourne. Bourne is responsible for all the best songs on the album, the most notable being its second track "Magnolia."

I will say without an ounce of hyperbole or sarcasm that if Tupac came back from Cuba and Biggie came back to life and the two collaborated, whatever they made would not be as hot as "Magnolia."

This is absolutely the song of the year. It has literally everything you want in a Carti song: lots of ridiculous ad-libs, a nonsensical hook and a retina-shaking beat. I have listened to this song at least a hundred times in the last four days, and I honestly do not think I will ever get tired of it. 'Milly rocking' is coming back thanks to Playboi Carti, and for that we should all be thankful.

The beat on "Lame N****z," another Pierre Bourne track, sounds like a chopped and screwed version of "Closer" by the v-neck clad toolboxes that are The Chainsmokers. This is as great as it sounds. Bourne's production style meshes perfectly with Carti's rap, striking the perfect balance between artistic experimentation and certifiable banger credentials.

This album shows that this young producer definitely has some promise, and hopefully he will be working with more mumble-rap icons in the near future. Get it, Future.

Surprisingly, Carti's debut is pretty much free of features, which is odd for someone who only has about four songs in which he is the lead musician. Carti did recruit the occasionally questionable talents of everyone's favorite diminutive purple haired rock star Lil Uzi Vert. The best rapper out of Philadelphia since Beanie Sigel (that's the joke) appears on both of singles that preceded the album's release: "Wokeuplikethis" and "Lookin'."

Thankfully, in these

two songs, Lil Uzi makes up for the god-awful travesty that was his verse on "Bad and Boujee." Carti and Lil Uzi actually make a good pair. Stylistically, they are fairly similar and complement one another well on the track.

The album's other two features come from human-mink-coat A\$AP Rocky on "New Choppa" and Leven Kali, who I have never heard of and therefore do not have a joke for on "Flex." Both are good and Rocky actually rapping coherent sentences is a nice contrast, but this album is not really about features. Like I said, the quality of the rhymes is essentially irrelevant. What really matters is the way they sound. Carti could fill every song with delusional non-sequiturs, and it would not matter so long as his delivery floated on the beat.

Carti's style speaks to his eclectic musical associations. Somehow, the man worked with both Awful Records and A\$AP Mob, even though the two are about as similar concrete and dirt. What you end up with are New York style call-and-response choruses over choppy, deep bass Southern-style beats.

This type of cross-over is kind of like "Big Pimpin'" but with more of an emphasis on beats than actual rap. Also with no boat and fur coats but probably simi-

lar volumes of lean.

Carti's music is not exactly intellectual, but who cares? I could sit here and argue for him as a neo-Dada musician who is dismantling what we perceive to be music, but I would rather just say this: It's fun music.

Every time Kendrick releases an album, every clown with an internet connection and an opinion writes a dissertation on the allegory and symbolism and so on and so on. Yes, music with depth and meaning is certainly great, and music analysis is interesting.

However, it gets tedious when every line gets analyzed to a near-Freudian extent. That is where *Playboi Carti* comes in. There is literally nothing to analyze. Just enjoy the willful ignorance. The real world sucks and World War Three is going to kill us all soon anyway, but once the nukes start flying, I plan on blasting "Magnolia" and 'milly rocking' my way into the afterlife.

You can join me in my nihilistic dance party by listening to this album. I mean, if you have gotten this far into the article, you may as well just take my advice, right? I am not here to encourage you to drink or do drugs, but I will say that if you just so happen to be in such a state of mind at some point in the coming week, you might consider putting on "Magnolia" and savoring sweet, sweet fantasy.

The Official Un-official Day- Drinking Playlist

By Will Kirsch

1. "REDMERCEDES" by Aminé
2. "Hot Boy" by Bankroll Fresh
3. "Who Am I?" by Beenie Man
4. "DNA." by Kendrick Lamar
5. "Headlock" by Cousin Stizz feat. Offset
6. "Magnolia" by Playboi Carti
7. "Rackades" by Two-9 feat. Curtis Williams, Key! and Jace
8. "LOYALTY." by Kendrick Lamar feat. Rihanna
9. "Hip Hopper" by Blac Youngsta feat. Lil Yachty
10. "Gucci On My" by Mike Will Made-it feat. 21 Savage, YG and Migos

New podcast discusses life inside the Gatehouse

PODCAST, FROM B3

podcast, and they were on board. The four of us worked for months to produce our first episode. When we finally released it on SoundCloud, it felt surreal. I was elated.

But before we released our first episode, there was a lot of planning that went into our process. Did we want to structure our show as a roundtable discussion like the NPR *Politics Podcast*? Or have more of a narrative structure like *Serial*? Who would serve as the hosts? How would we record and edit the show?

We decided to keep our first show on the smaller scale and craft an inside look into our own newspaper production. The episode, titled "Inside the Gatehouse" details the weekly process that editors undergo in order to create *The News-Letter*. We interviewed different section editors, recorded meetings and scripted voice-overs.

By keeping our first episode within *The News-Letter* community, we were able to learn along

the way. We learned which microphone was the best for studio recording and which was best for capturing background noise. (Shotgun mic for background and Blue Yeti for studio in case you're wondering.)

We learned how to monitor sound levels and edit clips on Adobe Audition. We learned how to conduct interviews meant for the radio, which was very different from interviews meant for print journalism.

It wasn't a perfect or easy process. We made lots of mistakes along the way. Our interviews were not consistently structured and the mic failed during a meeting. At one point, all of our files got lost and for one of the most stressful hours of my life, we had to come to terms with the fact that we might have to start over from scratch.

Luckily, Amanda was

able to find and recover everything. And we did our best to equalize the sound clips so that any irregularities aren't too noticeable in the finished product.

I'm very proud of having worked on *The News-Cast* and hope that it continues to exist well past my time at Hopkins.

The four of us — Will, Rollin, Amanda and I — had no experience, only the desire to create a podcast, and we made it happen.

In a small practice room in Mattin Center, Rollin and I would listen to Will and Amanda record multiple takes of their segments, offering direction and commentary until we got the right take. Rollin composed the theme song. I spliced together clips. It was a team effort, and we also had the help of the Digital Media Center (DMC), so a big thanks

goes to them for their assistance.

If you have a chance, go check out *The News-Cast*. You can hear the clicking of keys as editors revise articles and perfect pages. You can listen to us laugh and talk through meetings. You can learn about why our editors are so committed to reporting on the Hopkins and Baltimore communities.

The News-Cast is a lot different from our normal print material but in a good way. The goal of audio journalism is to capture the current moment through sound, to use the medium to transport listeners into a different world. I think we successfully transported our listeners into the Gatehouse and into the crazy, chaotic but ultimately rewarding experience of being part of a college newspaper.

The News-Cast's first episode was released on SoundCloud recently and is available to stream on that platform. More episodes will be produced in the future discussing a variety of topics.



GLENJAMN3/CC-BY3.0
Philadelphia rapper Lil' Uzi Vert is featured twice on *Playboi Carti*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Pretty Little Liars shocks audiences once again



DOMINICK D/CC-BY-SA 2.0
Ashley Benson, Lucy Hale and Shay Mitchell (L to R) have starred in the hit teen drama since 2010.

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

Long-time Freeform (formerly ABC Family) hit *Pretty Little Liars* (PLL) has finally begun to unveil its endgame in the back half of its seventh and final season. The first of 10 final episodes aired Tuesday, promising viewers an addictive, unpredictable ride, as always.

Loosely based on a book series of the same name by Sara Shepard, the series revolves around the complicated lives of four teenagers, now adults, Aria Montgomery (Lucy Hale), Spencer Hastings (Troian Bellisario), Emily Fields (Shay Mitchell) and Hanna Marin (Ashley Benson), living in the fictional small town of Rosewood, Pa.

After the mysterious disappearance of their best “frenemy,” queen bee Alison DiLaurentis (Sasha Pieterse), the girls begin getting threatening text messages from someone under the alias of “A” and their lives are thrown into chaos.

In honor of the show’s final 10 episodes, here’s a countdown of the most shocking, scandalous and “liar-est” moments.

10. “Spaleb”: This ship between Spencer and Caleb Rivers (Tyler Blackburn), Hanna’s then ex-boyfriend, takes the cake for worst of all time. It was completely out-of-left-field and cringe-worthy and only served the purpose of building up

tension before finally — thank God — Hanna and Caleb reunited.

9. The Fate of Noel Kahn: Noel Kahn (Brant Daugherty), the girls’ former classmate and one-time love interest of Aria’s, joined. “Team A” this season and tried to kill the girls with an axe. But as luck would have it, he ended up tripping and being decapitated by his own weapon. So many characters have died on PLL, but Noel’s death was by far the most hilariously over the top.

8. Ali’s Alive: In season four, the girls’ long-time suspicions were finally confirmed when it was revealed their former ringleader was still alive. But her return to Rosewood wasn’t quite as joyous as any of them had hoped it would be.

7. The “Jenna Thing”: Before Ali’s disappearance, she roped the girls into throwing a firecracker into the supposedly empty garage of classmate Jenna Marshall (Tammin Surok). Jenna was inside and was blinded by the firecracker. Ali blackmailed Jenna into keeping the incident a secret, but she has remained an uncomfortable and unpredictable presence in the girls’ lives. Currently, she appears to be a member of “Team A.”

6. “Ezria’s” First Day of School: In the pilot, Aria made out with a slightly older guy named Ezra (Ian Harding) in a bar bathroom and found out the next day that he was her new English teacher. But, of course, the

pair started dating anyway.

5. Ezra the Creep: In season four, it was revealed that Ezra had a thing with Alison before her disappearance and had been trying to figure out what happened to her ever since. He began writing a book about Ali and sought out Aria and the other girls for research purposes but didn’t count on genuinely falling for Aria.

After an ugly break up, they reunited and have been on and off ever since. They’re currently engaged, but Ezra’s long-lost, presumed-dead girlfriend has just come back into the picture and is putting a definite strain on this star-crossed ship.

4. “The OG” A: Back in season three, the liars’ classmate and Hanna’s ex-best friend Mona Vanderwaal (Janel Parrish) was revealed to be a very astute psychopath intent on torturing the liars the way Ali had tortured her before her disappearance. Mona has since been rehabilitated and has become a quasi-friend to the girls, but neither viewers nor the girls know if she can ever truly be trusted.

3. Spencer’s Crazy Family Tree: In season two, it was revealed that Ali’s older brother Jason (Drew Van Acker) is actually Spencer’s half-brother, the result of an affair between Spencer’s dad Peter (Nolan North) and Ali and Jason’s mom Jessica (Andrea Parker).

This season, in what is arguably the show’s most

ridiculous plot twist, it was revealed that Spencer is the product of an affair between Peter and Jessica’s twin sister Mary, making Spencer not only Jason’s half-sister but also his cousin.

2. Ali’s Long-Lost Sister: In season six, the liars discovered that the A Game had been taken over by Ali’s old friend Cece Drake (Vanessa Ray), who was actually born a boy named Charles.

Charles was Mary’s first child but was adopted by Jessica because Mary was locked up in Radley Sanitarium, an insane asylum. Jessica began raising Charles as her son but sent him to Radley a few years later when he accidentally hurt baby Ali. Charles went on to transition and take the name Charlotte while at Radley.

Charlotte was later released and sought out her cousins/siblings Ali and Jason, introducing herself as Cece. She became Ali’s best friend and confidante. After Ali’s disappearance, Charlotte felt that the liars had moved on too easily and forgotten Ali, so she sought revenge as A. At the beginning of season seven, Charlotte was killed and a new A is now after the girls, believing they had something to do with Charlotte’s death.

1. Ali’s Devious Husband: Before her death, Charlotte received psychological therapy from a Dr. Elliot Rollins (Huw Collins), who ends up falling in loving with Alison and marrying her after Charlotte’s death. Unbeknownst to Ali, Rollins is actually Archer Dunhill and was Charlotte’s secret lover.

He tricked Alison into marrying him and subsequently drugged her to make her think she was going crazy as part of a plot to avenge Charlotte by stealing the DiLaurentis fortune.

When the liars finally figure out Rollins’ identity and try to rescue Ali, they accidentally hit him with a car and then bury him in the woods. Oh, and Ali is now pregnant with his baby.

LeFou is a start for queer representation

LI FOU, FROM B3

effeminate character, the type the straight audiences immediately know to be wary of, the type whose sole function in the story is to be gay and get straight audiences to laugh at their gayness.

Instead, LeFou was an actual character who played a role in the story and was comprised of complexities beyond a reductive stereotype of sexuality.

There were many ways that Disney could have

nor gay character.

However, as fun as it might be to imagine Cogsworth and Lumiere as a domestic gay couple or wonder how much better the story would have been with a lesbian beast, these aren’t realistic first steps.

That’s really what LeFou is: a first step. I’d like to see this small representation in *Beauty and the Beast* lead to more representation later down the line. Sure, it’s not perfect, but it’s a step

I’d like to see this small representation in *Beauty and the Beast* lead to more representation...

in the right direction, and queer communities should be encouraging Disney to follow that step.

Slamming them for every small mis-

take will only discourage them altogether. We should be holding them to the standards we expect as consumers while also letting them know that we appreciate the attempt.

For one thing, I’m tired of seeing straight actors play queer characters. As well-suited as Josh Gad was for the role, I want to see those opportunities given to queer actors. Disney could also use their massive influence in the industry to influence or enact any changes towards better diversity without much risk to themselves, yet they are applauding themselves for one mi-

take will only discourage them altogether. We should be holding them to the standards we expect as consumers while also letting them know that we appreciate the attempt.

LeFou’s sexuality certainly came out better than it could have, and it’s up to queer communities to let Disney know that, while they still aren’t perfect, they are getting there, making efforts to do better. And they deserve credit for that.

Kendrick’s legacy hurts the successes of DAMN.

LAMAR FROM B3

“wavy” atmosphere that Kanye strived for during the middle parts of last year’s *The Life of Pablo* and executes on what Kanye couldn’t. The song is lyrically strong and triumphant in its “finally made it” characterization of Kendrick’s journey.

Now after so many paragraphs of praise, you’re probably wondering what problems I had with the album. The main one is that, at least through the numerous listens of the album that I’ve had, there isn’t an apparent theme or coherent backbone.

For other artists, that wouldn’t matter, but for an artist like Kendrick who has previously released two highly cohesive albums, *Good Kid, M.A.A.D City* and *To Pimp a Butterfly*, that was my expectation.

There’s nothing inherently wrong with subverting a listener’s expectations, but I think that if

the album had a stronger series of themes, then it would’ve hit a bit harder (not to say it didn’t hit hard in the first place).

Imagine the lead-up in a proper narrative with “DUCKWORTH,” popping as the end of it. It would’ve been insane.

Kendrick’s legacy and impeccable tracks that came out prior to this album ended up hurting my reaction to this album in the long run. It’s an absolutely wonderful album, but it just couldn’t meet my hype completely.

If you have even a passing interest in hip-hop, you should definitely check out *DAMN*. It’s an album with high highs and mid-dling lows that might not be as good as the two albums that precede it, but not many albums are. You’ll also probably be hearing the singles from this album at every party and NBA playoff game for the next year.



KIM MATSO/CC-BY-SA 3.0
Kendrick Lamar recently released his newest album, 2017’s *DAMN*.

Cashion talks creative process behind new music

ISLANDS, FROM B3

show and any new places... We’re hoping to get to Asia and South America at some point on this tour. Nothing has been booked yet, but that’s what we’re really excited about, trying to get to those places.”

Future Islands may be known for the intensity of their spirited live performances, but Cashion emphasized the vital role that the audience plays in maintaining those high-energy levels over the course of countless shows.

“A lot of the energy of the show comes from the audience. If the audience is putting off energy, we’re able to bounce it back” he said. “It’s like a feedback loop. If the audience is there with us and they’re giving us their energy, then it’ll be easy for us to find it.”

Cashion’s favorite song to perform live off of *The Far Field* is the melancholy yet pulsating “Black Rose,” which he associates with the early part of the band’s creative process.

“I really like playing ‘Black Rose’ a lot. When

we first started writing the album, we went down to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We got a house in January, so there was nobody there but us and the beach... We wrote for about five or six days, and ‘Black Rose’ was the last song we wrote,” Cashion said.

He continued to describe how the process behind writing this song influenced the way he feels about it today.

“I remember taking a break, and Garret [Welters] and I ran down to the beach. I ran in the water even though it was freezing” he said. “That song was written that same day. It reminds me of that time, being down there working on the album, the beginning of writing this record. The whole vibe of the song really surprised all of us. Playing it live, it really comes across well; It has a good strut to it.”

As for what he is currently listening to, Cashion has been interested in an eclectic mix of throwback groups.

“I’m listening to this band called The Congos

(they’re an old reggae band) and their album *The Heart of the Congos*. I just got into Strawberry Switchblade. They’re an old eighties band from Glasgow,” he said. “They’re almost like if Beach House was a band in the eighties. They have one song that sounds like that at least called ‘Go Away.’ I’ve been listening to a lot of Stars of the Lid as well.”

With regards to his advice for students interested in pursuing a career in music or a creative field, Cashion believes that it’s all about empowering yourself to take action and gain as much experience as possible.

“My advice would be, to get out there in any way you can, whether it’s visual art or performance or music,” he said.

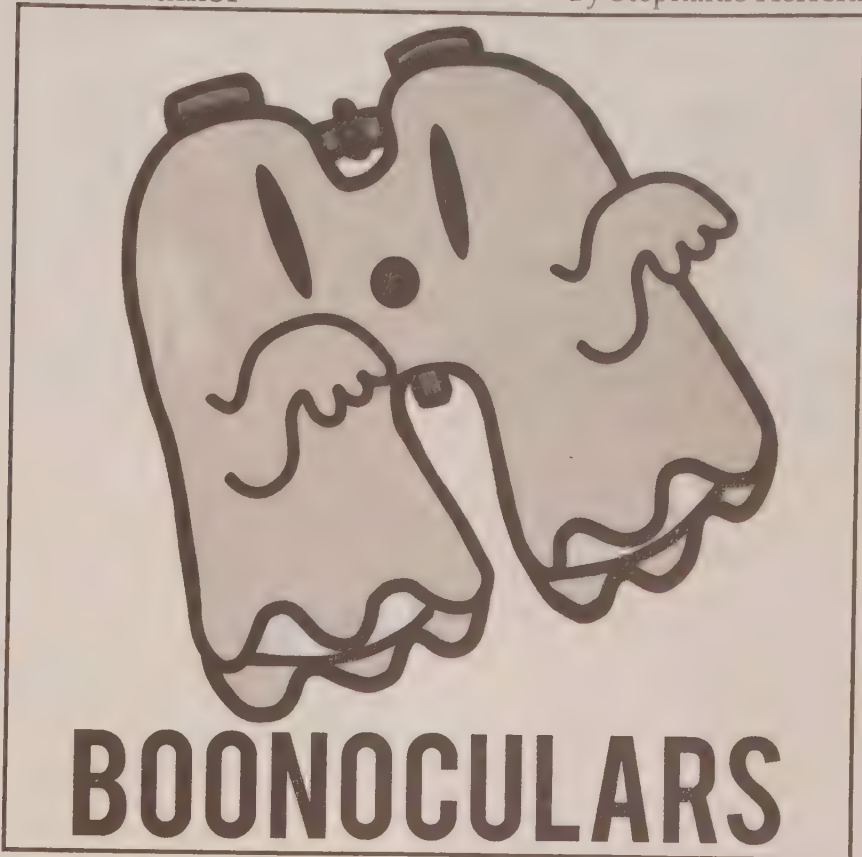
Cashion described how the band enacted this advice themselves.

“The way we started when we were in college was we got a keg and threw a keg party, and we made ourselves the headliner at the house party. We would ask friends to

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



21 And Over, Of Course!

By Natalie Wallington

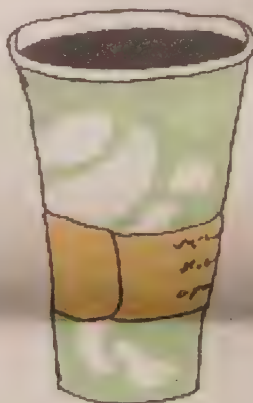
**HOP
TAILS**



THE BLUE J
Blue Powerade,
fancy rum your rich
aunt bought you,
med student tears



THE HACKERMAN
FFC hot chocolate,
Burnett's from that
unfortunate party,
melted cough drops



THE VOID
Just the endless
mass of pure
nothingness, in a
Brody cafe cup



THE LA-CROSS
The pinkest liquid
you can steal from
Chem lab, grenadine,
Levering salad bar olive

Springdoku : Three Petal Edition

8		5	7			1	
	9					5	8
	2			8		7	9
6	1	3					
9			3				5
					3	6	8
5	3		1				9
	7	9				5	
		2			9	4	7

Med

5		9			6	
	2					1
3			4	1	7	9
		5			3	4
	9		7			2
7		2			5	
	7	4	6	2	9	
2						9
	3			1		7

Hard

	6		8		5	7	
	8	9		1			
		7					6
8	7			6	4	5	
			5		1		
		5	9	8			7
5						2	
				3		9	4
	4	1		9			6

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

It may be feasible to farm in outer space Eye implants allow blind tadpoles to see



Growing crops will be necessary for survival in space, a possibility due to the new NASA bill.

By **AVERY GULINO**
For *The News-Letter*

In Andy Weir's novel *The Martian*, Mark Watney colonized Mars by growing potatoes from his own fecal matter. In reality, that small piece of science fiction may not be so fictional after all.

Plants are actually considered essential to human survival on other planets; Not only do they provide a symbiotic relationship by consuming carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen, but they also serve as a source of food and a way of recycling water.

Now, research teams from Japan, Canada, China and other countries, have been working to solve the problem of how to make these plants not just grow, but thrive,

in extraterrestrial environments. Raymond M. Wheeler, researcher from the Biological Sciences Office at NASA, recently published a paper that summarizes and relates the previous and ongoing research on this goal of cosmic plant growth.

This area of research is not a new field inspired by *The Martian*, but rather one that has been alive since the 1950s and 1960s. The studies began with research by the U.S. Air Force and NASA about how algae plays a role in the exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen.

From there, research expanded internationally in the space race of the late 20th century. It was during this time that experiments were conducted in Russia to see if human life could

humans, two goats and a sizeable amount of crop plants, in order to simulate living in outer space. In their models, animal and human life was sustained in this small-scale replication of Earth, known as Closed Ecology Experiment Facilities (CEEF).

Then in the 1990s, this research spread to Canada, where very similar experiments tested how, in a closed environment, humans and plants would interact. The University of Guelph in Ontario proceeded to develop large chambers simulating an outer space environment.

These chambers were designed to test crop growth, and Guelph researchers have continued to expand the usage of these chambers to encompass a greater variety of agriculture.

The most recent advancement in developing a closed human-plant environment occurred in the early 21st century. A team of scientists at Beihang University in Beijing created what they call Lunar Palace 1.

Lunar Palace 1 is an acronym for the full research project name: Integrative Experimental Facility for Permanent Astrobase Life-support Artificial Closed Ecosys-

tem (PALACE).

In 2014, the Lunar Palace 1 was tested on three human subjects who each spent 105 days in the PALACE. Two women and one man lived in 500 cubic meters of space, sharing it partly with each other and partly with various crops that were being tested to see how well they grew in these circumstances. The volunteers' mental and physical health were also closely monitored.

In a press release in 2014, officials from the China Manned Space Engineering office stated, "The success of the experiment has laid [a] good foundation... which will be helpful for China's astronauts to get fresh vegetables, improve their living conditions and relieve their mental stress."

This research has gone from studies of algae to keeping humans alive in a closed environment with just plants and worms. Through this research, many breakthroughs have been made, such as a new way to grow crops through light-emitting diodes, vertical agriculture and new methods for water delivery.

Many other advancements in what we know about plants, new methods in how to grow plants and what exactly they can produce have been made as well.

This research is essential to humans' potential long-term survival on planets other than Earth and can help current astronauts in space be healthier both mentally and physically. The history of the research, compiled by Wheeler, provides an extremely in-depth look at this developing research.

"His article should be required reading for anyone with even a passing interest in the Space Agriculture," Gary Stutte, NASA principal investigator, said.

By **CINDY JIANG**
For *The News-Letter*

A number of attempts to cure blindness in humans have emerged among researchers. The use of stem cells to aid regeneration of eye tissue as well as Vitamin A therapy for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa, a condition that is characterized by the deterioration of the retina, are two possible cures for blindness.

While these techniques have achieved some success at preventing blindness, they do not involve the transplantation of a visual organ onto the human body. Therefore, in an effort to comprehend the way in which an organism adapts to the regrown nerves from implanted body parts, blind tadpoles were studied as a model.

According to researchers from the Allen Discovery Center at Tufts University, the tadpoles demonstrated an increase in graft innervation when they were treated with a neurogenerative drug. Eyes were implanted on the trunk of the blind tadpoles' tails before they were treated with Zolmitriptan, a drug that activates serotonin receptors involved with neural development.

Zolmitriptan is traditionally useful for alleviating migraines in humans, but the results of this experiment may reveal the effectiveness of repurposing neurotransmitters to benefit regenerative medicine.

To test the effectiveness of the eye grafting and the administering of Zolmitriptan, a series of trials was run. In the first set of trials, the tadpoles' ability to distinguish color was examined by an assessment that entailed

encouraging the tadpoles to occupy a blue space rather than a red space.

Out of the tadpoles studied, 76 percent without visual problems and three percent of blind tadpoles passed the assessment. Additionally, 11 percent of blind tadpoles that received implanted eyes and 29 percent of tadpoles that received both implanted eyes as well as the Zolmitriptan treatment passed.

"For regenerative medicine to move forward and enable the repair of damaged tissues and organ systems, we need to understand how to promote innervation and integration of transplanted organs," Michael Levin, director of the Allen Discovery Center and Tufts Center for Regenerative and Developmental Biology, said. "This research helps illuminate one way to promote innervation and establish neural connections between a host central nervous system and an implant, using a human-approved small molecule drug."

The tadpoles were also tested for true image-forming vision through their ability to match the direction of patterns rotating either clockwise or counterclockwise. An LCD screen above tadpole dishes was utilized to show the triangular clusters that moved every second.

The results of the image-forming test were as follows: 80 percent of tadpoles without visual problems and 38 percent of blind tadpoles passed the assessment. Additionally, 32 percent of blind tadpoles that received implanted eyes and 57 percent of tadpoles that received

SEE **BLIND**, PAGE B9

Gene mutation may disrupt sleep cycle

By **SHERRY SIMKOVIC**
Staff Writer

The circadian rhythm, also known as the biological clock or sleep-wake cycle, governs people's sleeping habits. The biological clock works over a 24-hour period to maintain recurrent daily changes at both the microscopic cellular and macroscopic behavioral levels.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, disruptions to the circadian rhythm can change how well and when you sleep, eventually causing a variety of sleep disorders.

Sleep specialists most commonly diagnose Delayed Sleep Phase Dis-

order (DSPD), affecting between 0.2 percent and 10 percent of the population. DSPD begins as Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (DSPS), which is when a person is unable to fall asleep until at least two hours past a socially accepted bedtime.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, adults and teenagers with DSPS generally describe themselves as night owls and typically say they function best during the evening or at night. Those suffering from DSPS typically have trouble waking up in the morning.

Once DSPS starts to interfere with everyday life, causing dysfunctional daily

SEE **NIGHT**, PAGE B8

Experts link wealth with higher carbon emissions

By **ELAINE CHIAO**
Staff Writer

Two sociologists working at Boston College recently discovered that carbon emissions exhibit a trend of being higher in states where there is a more concentrated high-income population. On a larger scale, this trend is consistent with the positive correlation between national wealth and carbon emission levels.

Andrew Jorgenson and Juliet Schor, the two who conducted the study, are the first researchers to directly carry out an investigation that examines the relationship between wealth concentration and carbon emissions with each individual U.S. state.

More specifically, Jorgenson and Schor found that between the years 1997 and 2012, each U.S. state's accumulated carbon emission amount is directly proportional to the income level of the top 10 percent of its population. Their study was subsequently published in the April edition of the journal *Ecological Economics*.

Using state data collected in 2012 and statis-

tical evidence provided by the researchers' studies, it is estimated that a one percent increase in the income share amongst the top 10 percent of a state's population culminates in significantly more metric tons of carbon emission.

This trend is consistent across the board for the majority of the U.S. states. For example, the study showed that the income share growth of Texas' top 10 percent is 812,325, while Texas' annual carbon emission level reaches a number of 934,174 metric tons.

On the other hand, the income share growth the top 10 percent of New York City elites is 196,234, while New York's annual carbon emission level is 225,670 metric tons.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

There are higher carbon emissions in states with a higher concentration of wealth.

The study reveals that South Carolina sits at the median range with respect to the analysis of income growth and carbon emissions. At the other end of the spectrum, the District of Columbia has the lowest growth in carbon emissions.

The cornerstone of the study relies on its abundant statistical support. Jorgenson's and Schor's findings also made the general U.S. public aware of the impact of greenhouse gas and the urgent necessity of environmental action.

Jerry Brown, the governor of California, recently stated in a press release that his state would uphold its environmental friendly policies regardless of any federal deregulation that might be imposed in the future.

"We think it is safe to say, in terms of environmental policy and action, it is going to be much more active at the state level than the federal level," Jorgenson said in a press release. "Given the uncertainty of the

SEE **CARBON**, PAGE B9



PUBLIC DOMAIN

A rare gene mutation may make those who have it more tired.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Synthetic marijuana shows lethal side effects Mutated gene makes days seem longer



Compounds in synthetic marijuana have harmful side effects, unlike natural marijuana. WAMM/CC-BY-3.0

By JOAN YEA
Senior Staff Writer

Although marketed as legal or safe alternatives to marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, also known as “K2” or “spice,” have highly toxic effects in their users, in stark contrast to regular marijuana. Scientists at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences recount the adverse effects produced by these compounds, which probably activate various receptors, in their review of existing research on synthetic cannabinoids.

As reported in their study, which was published in March 2017 in *Trends in Pharmacological Sciences*, synthetic cannabinoids were originally synthesized in research laboratories that sought to develop therapeutically useful cannabinoids.

To avoid being listed as Schedule 1 drugs, or drugs that the Drug Enforcement Administration does not approve for medical use, the synthetic cannabinoids were synthesized from psychoactive substances chemically distinct from the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) compound in marijuana.

While the synthetic cannabinoids, like marijuana, activate the two cannabinoid receptors CB1 and CB2, the ingredients in the former display not only higher potency but also a higher affinity for binding at

effects not reported among marijuana users, such as cardiotoxicity and acute kidney failure, have been reported among those who utilize synthetic cannabinoids.

Individuals who use synthetic cannabinoids

may also experience effects such as psychosis, anxiety and visual and auditory hallucinations, which are all only rarely reported among marijuana users.

While the use of marijuana seldom leads to dependence, the chronic use of synthetic cannabinoids commonly results in tolerance, withdrawal and dependence reactions. Most significantly, while no deaths have been attributed to marijuana use between 2011 and 2014 in the U.S., over 20 deaths have been caused by synthetic cannabinoids during that time period.

The potentially lethal effects of synthetic cannabinoids should be a sufficient deterrent for interested buyers, according to the authors of the review. After all, the users do not even know the active ingredients in the synthetic cannabinoids they have purchased.

“There are usually a minimum of three, if not five, different synthetic cannabinoids in a single product,” Paul L. Prather, principal investigator at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, said.

The varied lethal consequences of using synthetic cannabinoids have led some researchers to conduct studies that have investigated the activation of receptors other than the cannabinoid CB1 and CB2 receptors. One study cited in the review appeared to show

that some “JHW” cannabinoids are highly efficacious at inhibiting HERG potassium channels, the inhibition of which may be the underlying cause of the cardiovascular malfunction observed from the use of synthetic cannabinoids.

Still, only a few mechanistic studies have been conducted with these synthetic marijuana products, and even fewer have been conducted to study CB1 receptor antagonists, such as rimonabant or AM251.

The authors of the review urge that clinical studies with such receptor antagonists would greatly help to at least elucidate a possible treatment method. Clinical trials with rimonabant had halted following reported psychiatric side effects among a small subset of patients.

Yet, the reviewers question the wisdom of the cessation of such studies, which would aid in the development of life-saving treatments for people experiencing acute overdose from synthetic cannabinoids.

Despite the dangers of these cannabinoids, the cheap price of such products as well as the prospect of avoiding detection from standardized drug tests constitute sufficient incentives for buyers. John W. Huffman, retired professor from Clemson University and the developer of the “JWH” class of synthetic cannabinoids, offers a different strategy for counteracting the use of “K2” or “spice.”

In a 2011 interview with ABC News, Huffman suggested that legalization of marijuana would decrease the demand for synthetic cannabinoids. Marijuana, unlike the many synthetic variants, has been thoroughly studied and found to be not a very harmful drug, and the regulation of marijuana rather than its criminalization would at least obviate the need to hide marijuana use with synthetic cannabinoids, according to Huffman.

NIGHT FROM B7

routines such as waking up for school or work, it becomes DSPD. Problems with delayed sleep phase ultimately lead to 10 percent of chronic insomnia cases.

Genetics control how your sleep cycle functions. In the past, scientists have linked a rare genetic variation capable of shortening the sleep cycle to familial advanced sleep phase disorder, a type of sleeping problem that causes people to fall asleep much earlier than they otherwise would.

Researchers have not yet found any such hereditary linkage for the majority of sleep disorders, but the new study discovered an inherited trait that encodes a malfunctioning protein, leading to delays in sleeping between two and three hours.

“It’s as if these people have perpetual jet lag, moving eastward every day,”

Michael Young, Richard and Jeanne Fisher Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Genetics at The Rockefeller University, said in a press release. “In the morning, they’re not ready for the next day to arrive.”

The team began by observing the sleep patterns of a 46-year-old woman diagnosed with DSPD. They monitored her temperature and sleep over a two day period.

Using genetic information from the volunteer, they began by sequencing the genes that encode the proteins that control the circadian rhythm in mammals in order to determine which genes could potentially affect the sleep cycle. They focused on the *Per* and *Cry* proteins, molecules that inhibit the activity of proteins responsible for turning on and off the cell’s ability to transcribe the genes that initiate the sleep cycle.

During the process of sequencing the genes, they noticed a mutation in the *Cry1* gene that has been shown to change the way the cell splices mRNA strands, significantly changing the way the cell builds the resulting protein and most likely affecting the protein’s ability to function as it should.

As a result, the team

conjectured that the *Cry1* mutation may have been related to the participant’s elongated sleep cycle. They also looked at sleep patterns and histories of family members of the participant and found the delayed sleep behavior to be common among immediate family members and across several generations.

Once they had established that not only did those who suffered from DSPD carry a mutation of *Cry1*, but also that they inherited the mutation, the researchers discerned what actually happens as a result of the mutation at the cellular level. They found that the mutation causes the *Cry1* protein to inhibit transcription of the other genes for too long, causing a delay in the person’s ability to fall asleep.

In a gene database search, Young and Alina Patke, a research associate at Rockefeller in Young’s lab, found that one in

75 of individuals of non-Finnish European ancestry carry the mutation.

Collaborators with Patke and Young at Bilkent University in Turkey looked at sleep patterns across six families and found

39 carriers of the mutation, all of whom had trouble falling asleep until late at night.

Patke, Young and their collaborators discovered that you don’t need to have inherited two copies of the mutation to have DSPD, only one.

“Carriers of the mutation have longer days than the planet gives them, so they are essentially playing catch-up for their entire lives,” Patke, a self-described night owl but herself not a carrier of the mutation, said.

This is an indication that not all DSPD cases are caused by the mutation.

The mutation may actually benefit those people who have dreams of traveling to Mars because they’d be less affected by the jet lag.

“I remember reading that for people who control these Mars rovers at JPL (NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory), they have to work on a Mars sol (day) cycle. The rovers are only active when the sun shines on Mars,” Patke said.

Stem cells may be able to regenerate any tissue

By CINDY JIANG
For The News-Letter

The field of stem cell research is an area rich with discovery and hopes, especially within the past decade.

The use of stem cells has demonstrated exponential growth in its ability to provide solutions to various health issues, which include treatments for healing burns without scarring and stem cell implants for individuals with heart disease.

Stem cells may be differentiated into a totipotent or pluripotent category, but while both types are able to give rise to the cells that comprise the body, only those that are totipotent can develop the extra-embryonic

tissues.

Researchers from the Salk Institute and Peking University have discovered a chemical cocktail that allows stem cells retrieved from mice and humans to develop embryonic and extra-embryonic tissues.

Their discovery suggests advancements in disease and early developmental process modeling, drug discovery and tissue regeneration.

“During embryonic development, both the fertilized egg and its initial cells are considered totipotent, as they can give rise to all embryonic and extra-embryonic lineages,” Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, professor at the Salk Institute, said in a press release. “However,

the capture of stem cells with such developmental potential in vitro has been a major challenge in stem cell biology.”

“This is the first study reporting the derivation of a stable stem cell type that shows totipotent-like bi-developmental potential towards both embryonic and extra-embryonic lineages.”

Due to the early nature of divided cell segregation, until recently scientists have had difficulty preserving the stability of cells prior to their separation. The cultivated chemical cocktail provides an opportunity for scientists successfully to obtain cells that still have the ability to develop into either embryonic or extra-embryonic tissue.

The scientists at the Salk Institute call these cells the extended pluripotent stem (EPS) cells.

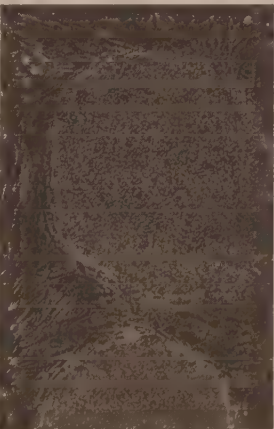
“The discovery of EPS cells provides a potential opportunity for developing a universal method to establish stem cells that have extended developmental potency in mammals,” Jun Wu, se-

nior scientist at the Salk Institute, said in a press release. “We are now testing to see whether human EPS cells are more efficient in chimeric contribution to pigs, whose organ size and physiology are closer to humans.”

In order to make the “chemical cocktail,” the team searched for compounds that appeared to support pluripotency and came up with a mixture of four chemicals and a growth factor.

The mixture allowed the cells to provide greater contribution to chimera formation in a mouse embryo and allowed mouse cells to create embryonic and extra-embryonic tissue types.

This discovery by the scientists of the Salk Institute and Peking University may lead to many potential advancements in topics such as in vitro fertilization techniques and human organ cultivation in pigs. The combination of the EPS cells and the interspecies blastocyst complementation platform may be the future for donor organs.

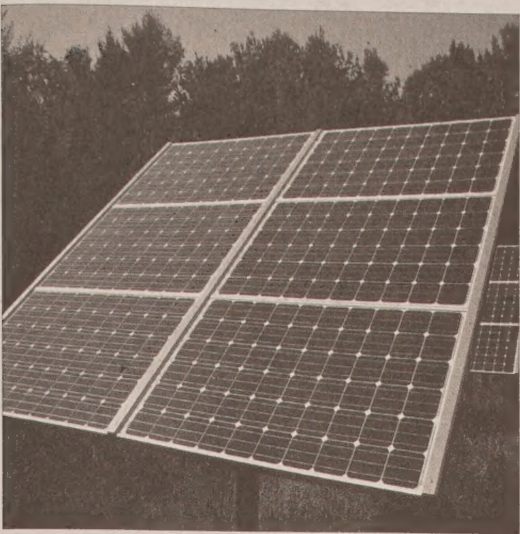


KARL MARQUEZ/CC-BY-SA-3.0
Stem cells can regrow various tissues.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
A mutation in a particular gene causes people’s days to be longer.

New solar cells break record for efficiency



SAYCHEEEEEEESE/PUBLIC DOMAIN
A new type of solar cell is both highly efficient and long-lasting.

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

A recent study led by Sang-Il Seok, a professor of energy and chemical engineering at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), developed a solution to support a new type of perovskite solar cell (PSC) in collaboration with researchers at the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology. Their findings were accepted for publication in *Science* in March 2017.

Solar cells convert sunlight into electrical energy and constitute solar panels. Through this conversion, energized electrons travel through the cell and excess energy is dissipated. The percentage of sunlight that can be converted into electricity is defined as the solar efficiency.

The perovskite solar cell has a high power conversion efficiency. It is typically created with titanium dioxide. However, titanium dioxide can damage the stability of a cell under direct illumination. After weeks of operation, a PSC's performance deteriorates. A cell's ability to withstand degrading due to illumination is called photostability. As the need for sustainable energy continues to grow, the goals of researchers is to increase photostability while keeping solar efficiency high when creating PSC technology.

As a leader in PSC technology, Professor Seok has established efficient architectures of hybrid inorganic-organic perovskite solar cells. Previous studies have improved the efficiencies of these cells to about 20 percent, but they all face the same lack of photostability.

Seok chose Lanthanum-doped BaSnO₃ (LBSO) as a replacement for the titanium dioxide due to its electron mobility and suitable structure. However, LBSO faces one obstacle: It cannot be synthesized below 500 degrees Celsius. Seok and his team came up with a solution for preparing LBSO below 300 degrees Celsius.

The method the researchers used to create LBSO involved an intricate process. According to the research paper, a crystalline superoxide-molecular cluster (CSMC) containing well-dispersed nanoparticles in 2-methoxyethanol (2ME) is formed as a basis for LBSO. The compact, uniform LBSO layer can then be fabricated

by spin-coating, a procedure used to deposit uniform thin films, onto a substrate.

To test the photostability of the formed LBSO based PSCs, the researchers conducted a light-soaking experiment. LBSO-based PSCs and traditional titanium dioxide-based PSCs were placed under a xenon or metal-halide lamp. The LBSO cells showed greater photostability while the titanium dioxide-based cells experienced a drop in solar efficiency upon initial illumination.

The PSCs created using LBSO electrodes and methylammonium lead iodide (MAPbI₃) showed record-breaking performance in both efficiency and photostability. The improved PSCs had a power conversion efficiency of 21.2 percent compared to the 19.7 percent of a typical titanium dioxide based PSC.

The LBSO based PSCs also lasted longer, retaining 93 percent of their initial performance after 1,000 hours of full sun illumination. In contrast, the titanium dioxide based cells completely degraded after only 500 hours.

In addition to the improved PSC, the research team proposed a new solar cell manufacturing methodology called the Hot-Pressing Method. As its name suggests, the method involves applying high temperatures and pressure to two objects to achieve tight adhesion. The new method is believed to reduce costs and increase efficiency in creating new PSCs.

"This study combines the newly-synthesized photoelectrode material and the hot-pressing method to lower the manufacturing cost to less than half of the existing silicon solar cells," Seok said in a press release. "This study helped us realize PSCs with a steady-state power conversion efficiency of 21.2 percent and excellent photostability."

The ultimate goal of the researchers is to improve PSCs to the level of commercialization. Optimizing solar efficiency and photostability is essential for the cells to compete with traditional solar cells.

"This achievement, realized by the unique technology of domestic researchers, has surpassed the conventional low-efficiency and stability limit of next-generation solar cell technology," Seok said.

Scientists discover origin of blood cells

By ANNA CHEN
For The News-Letter

Billions of highly specialized cells run through our veins. They make up our blood, a fascinating fluid that plays the significant roles of transport as part of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems and of pathogen detection and elimination in the immune and lymphatic systems.

Blood cells carry oxygen and essential nutrients to our other cells and protects them against virus and bacterial infections as well as cancerous growth. Blood connects every tissue in the human body, making life possible.

Scientists have long known that the specialized cells in blood come from a single type of cell known as the blood stem cell, which forms early on in the process of embryonic development.

“Understanding how... human blood cells develop will provide missing clues for... the treatment of blood disorders.”

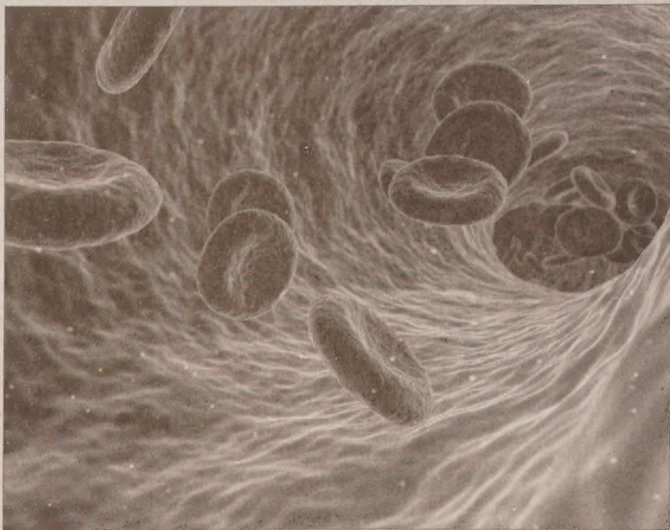
— NIELS-BJARNE WOODS, LUND UNIVERSITY

Blood stem cells are only a transitional stage between another type of cell and the blood cells we know. Blood stem cells were originally endothelial cells on the walls of embryonic ar-

teries. In a process called endothelial to hematopoietic transition, endothelial cells on the developing arterial walls detach and enter circulation.

These endothelial cells go through drastic physical changes in this process, transforming from their original spindle shape to the characteristic circular shape of blood stem cells.

However, scientists have never been able to explain the molecular changes that



PUBLIC DOMAIN
The discovery of where blood comes from could give insights on blood-related diseases.

analyze the endothelial to hematopoietic transition in human blood development.

Their investigation revealed that more types of endothelial cells were undergoing this transition process than previously was known and that the newly discovered cell populations undergoing it demonstrated the potential to produce a different range of blood cell types.

The discovery of these new transitional cells shows how more flexibility and variation in blood cell types can be produced and implies that different endothelial cell populations give rise to blood stem cells with different ranges of differentiation and specialization.

This study makes important contributions to the goal of understanding how the very first blood cells in an embryo come to be and how the types and amount of blood cells are deter-

mined during development and growth.

"Understanding how the first human blood cells develop will provide missing clues for us to generate blood stem cells in the laboratory for use in the treatment of blood disorders and malignancies," Woods said in a press release.

Every step toward reaching a full understanding of the subject is a step toward better and more potent medical treatment.

Woods also adds that in the future, he hopes to study whether or not it is possible to "trigger" adult endothelial cells to produce new blood stem cells.

This could have significant medical implications because if it is possible, scientists would be able to generate blood for patients from a patient's own endothelial cells without the need for blood transfusions and the rare but devastating risk of blood-borne diseases.

Carbon emissions linked to wealth concentration

CARBON FROM B7
regulatory environment at the federal level, states like California are saying they will not move away from their policies even if the federal agenda on climate change makes a 180-degree turn from the prior administration."

Jorgenson and Schor are both professors of sociology at Boston College. Schor also added that wealth is one of the most powerful driving forces behind carbon emission.

"First, income concentration leads to concentrated political power and the ability to prevent regulations on carbon emissions. Second, high income consumers are disproportionate carbon polluters," Schor said.

Jorgenson and Schor originally used a statistical method known as the Gini coefficient in order to measure income inequality.

However, an issue with the Gini coefficient

is that it only reports the presence of inequality without giving any specific details.

As a result, the researchers decided to switch to a measure that relies on evaluating the top 10 percent of a state's population income.

Nonetheless, there were more factors to consider than merely income. For example, a state's population size, gross domestic product per capita and fossil fuel

production all need to be taken into consideration when discussing the cause of carbon emission.

Jorgenson said part of their research goal is to broaden the perspectives of the harmful effects of income inequality.

Therefore, equalizing incomes is now a more urgent goal for the nation because it might render positive outcomes that benefit the environment.

Blind tadpoles see after eyes implanted into tails

BLIND FROM B7
implanted eyes and the Zolmitriptan treatment passed.

"The fact that the grafted eyes in our model system could transmit visual information, even when direct connections to the brain were absent, suggests the central nervous system contains a remarkable ability to adapt to changes both in function and connectivity," Douglas Blackiston, post-doctoral associate at the Department of Biology and Center for Regenerative and Developmental Biology at Tufts, said.

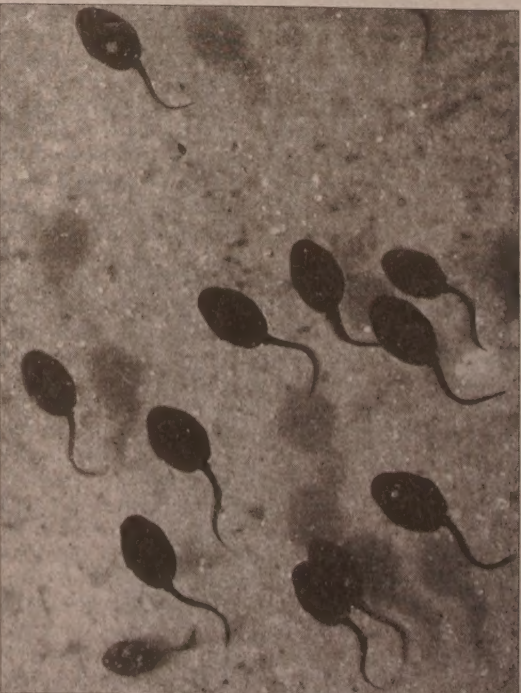
It is necessary for regenerated organs to establish connections within the body of an organism, especially when the implanted part has to do with the senses, so that there is an exchange with the brain of auditory, visual and tactile

information.

The body's ability to interpret visual inputs without clear connections to the brain is impressive, but the results from the use of Zolmitriptan solidify the importance of nerve regeneration in organ implants.

The research done in this study opens pathways for more innovation in how scientists can regenerate organs using different types of tissue. However, it is important to consider that the animal species used was the tadpole, so it may be some time before the findings can be applied to humans.

However, the research still shows that organ regeneration may not be limited to how many available donor organs there are. Patients may be able to use their own body parts to regrow a part of their body.



OLAF TAUSCH/CC-BY 3.0
Tadpole tail tissue was used to regenerate fully functional eyes.

SPORTS

M. Lax knocks off Big Ten rival Penn State

M.LAX, FROM B12

the lead 4-2.

The quarter was highlighted by a strong offensive presence by the Jays, who outshot the Nittany Lions 14-5 through the first 15 minutes of play. This contributed to the two-goal lead that Hopkins was able to take entering the second quarter.

Just as he had closed out the first quarter, Stanwick started the second quarter with his second goal of the day after taking a pass from sophomore midfielder Robert Kuhn and flinging a shot past the PSU goaltender to extend the Jays' lead to 5-2 just 22 seconds into the quarter. Penn State junior Ryan Keenan passed to senior Dan Craig just a minute later, who found the back of the net to stop the Jays' streak of three straight goals.

Hopkins would respond to their first three-goal streak ending by simply going on another three-goal streak, starting with an unassisted goal by Marr to put the game at 6-3. He would then go on to assist on junior midfielder Patrick Fraser's goal. This was followed by junior midfielder Joel Tinney scoring his 15th goal of the season with slightly under

five minutes left in the half, putting the Jays in the lead 9-3.

Several of these opportunities for goals came from tight defensive pressure by the Jays, forcing six turnovers in the half to coincide with their 14 shots. Contrary to the pressure by the Jays that forced a combined eight first half turnovers, Hopkins surrendered the ball only twice in the first half.

The Nittany Lions would answer with two goals of their own. PSU freshman Mac O'Keefe scored his 39th of the season, assisted by Ament, who notched his 21st assist of the season. Keenan scored his seventh goal to cut the deficit to three. Hopkins would quickly extend their lead back to five, burying two goals in the final 40 seconds to match the Nittany Lions' offensive advance.

Radzewicz would score an unassisted goal for his second of the game and ninth of the season, and Stanwick would close out the second quarter with a goal just as he had in the first quarter with some help from an assist by Marr, putting the Blue Jays on top 10-5 as the teams headed into the

locker room for halftime.

Contrary to the eight-goal offensive fireworks show that was the second quarter, the third quarter was a defensive scrum, with only two shots finding the mesh after the closing of the first half.

After a pushing call against Penn State, midfielder Drake Kreinz gave the Blue Jays a man-up opportunity to start out the quarter. Fraser would use a pass from Stanwick to put Hopkins in the lead 11-5. After six goalless minutes, Penn State sophomore Nick Spillane would receive an assist from Aponte to find the net to answer Fraser's goal and finish off the scoring for the third quarter with the contest at 11-6.

The fourth quarter was the only time in the game where Penn State led Hopkins in shot, with the Nittany Lions posting 12 to the Jays' 6, which helped the Nittany Lions mount a comeback that had many faithful Blue Jays nervous.

The Nittany Lions would capitalize on the momentum from Spillane's goal to start the fourth quarter scoring with three straight goals. Ament used another assist by Aponte to zing in a goal just nine sec-

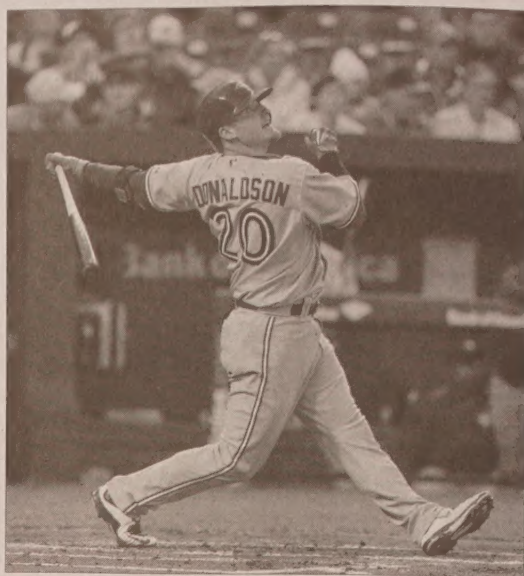
onds into the fourth, and Ament would follow with an assist to senior Mike Sutton. Midfielder Matt Florence would bury the third fourth quarter goal after receiving help from Aponte, who had his fourth assist of the game, to put the game at 11-9.

Forry Smith would ease the anxiety of the Hopkins fans after using a pass from Stanwick to bury his 10th goal of the season, but Penn State quickly answered with two more goals, with Sutton and Craig each scoring their second goal of the day to notch the game at 12-11 with only 1:20 left in the game.

With all of the momentum going Penn State's way, the Blue Jays were able to find a way to hang on, with Tinney scoring another goal with just 37 seconds left in the game to secure the victory for the Blue Jays.

The loss takes Penn State to 10-2 with a 1-2 record in the Big Ten Conference, while the win gives Hopkins a 7-4 record with a 2-1 record in the Big Ten. The Blue Jays will next be in action this Saturday, April 22, as they take on the Michigan Wolverines in the annual homecoming game at Homewood Field.

O's shine and Blue Jays struggle in MLB games



FLICKR.COM/KEITHALLISON

Josh Donaldson is a lone bright spot for the slumping Toronto Blue Jays.

MLB, FROM B12

capable of more consistency.

Meanwhile, the team's bullpen has been one of its strong suits over the past several years and is off to a strong start yet again. After each pitching well throughout the 2016 season, relievers Brad Brach, Mychal Givens and Donnie Hart have been effective thus far this year.

Closer Zach Britton has been the one cause for concern. While Britton has converted all five of his save opportunities, he has not done so with ease, often allowing several hitters to reach base before finding his way out of the jam. More importantly, he has been dealing with lingering oblique pain during Spring Training and is now sidelined with a forearm injury. Despite these issues, expect Britton, whose 54 consecutive saves are the second most in MLB history, to return to form and have another stellar season.

As for the bats, the Orioles's offense is as good as ever, once again fueled by the long ball and timely hitting. Rookie Trey Mancini and new addition Welington Castillo have performed exceptionally well. Mancini has hit four home runs in only seven games, and Castillo is batting over 0.300.

Throw in Adam Jones, Manny Machado, Chris Davis, Mark Trumbo and Jonathan Schoop, and you have the workings of an offense that is a nightmare for opposing pitchers.

Overall, the Orioles' strong start should not be all that surprising. While I don't expect them to pull away from the rest of the AL East anytime soon, I do envision them qualifying for the playoffs for the second consecutive season.

The rotation could still end up being a cause for concern, and Tillman and Britton's healths must be monitored. However, despite some minor concerns, the Orioles look like a team capable of winning 90 games.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Blue Jays are at a League worst of 2-10 through April 17. The Blue Jays are the victims of a ton of close losses.

Of their 10 losing games, eight have come by two runs or fewer. While this may be a case of bad luck, it is hard to believe that there are not other factors at play.

One major source of concern is the offense. Last year, Toronto was an offensive juggernaut, led primarily by Josh Donaldson, José Bautista and the previously mentioned AL Wild Card Game hero, Edwin Encarnación. Donaldson was the lone player in the lineup to have a decent start to the season, but he was placed on the disabled list last Friday with a calf injury.

Meanwhile, Bautista is hitting a meager 0.136 with zero home runs and one RBI, and Encarnación is quite simply not on the team anymore. The hitting woes of Russell Martin, Devon Travis and newly acquired Steve Pearce have only further exacerbated the team's struggles.

As if Toronto's offensive troubles were not enough, its issues on the mound are arguably even more worrisome. The Blue Jays entered the season boasting one of the most complete rotations in baseball: Aaron Sanchez, J. A. Happ, Francisco Liriano, Marco Estrada and Marcus Stroman.

What happened? Well, for starters, Sanchez ended up on the disabled list with a blister after his start this Friday. Then, on Sunday, Happ left his start with elbow pain. Meanwhile, Liriano's ERA sits at 9.00, in large part due to an outing in which he allowed five runs and only recorded one out.

In the bullpen, highly touted closer Roberto Osuna blew his only save opportunity, Jason Grilli surrendered a walk-off home run and Ryan Tepera allowed five runs in 5.1 innings.

Things do not look good for the Blue Jays. The Jays could end up like last year's Astros — finishing 84-78 after a 7-17 start. They could even end up like the Yankees, who traded several key assets midseason and also managed to finish 84-78, but the prognosis does not look good for this team.

The Jays should be expected to work their way back towards the 0.500 mark, but this is not the same team that was a series victory away from a World Series berth in 2016. On the bright side, this means the O's will not have to worry about last year's rival.

The reality may be harsh to hear, but that is the way sports work. You either seize your window of opportunity or you do not, and it is gone before you know it.

Can any NBA team take down the Warriors?



Gregory Melick
Sportpinion

As the NBA playoffs begin, the Golden State Warriors enter as the favorites to win it all. While that does not come as a surprise to anyone who follows basketball, what may be surprising is that they actually have better odds to win it all this year than they did last year, when they set the NBA record for most wins in a season with 73.

This is due to the fact that while they had a better regular season record last year, the Cleveland Cavaliers and San Antonio Spurs also had record-setting seasons, so people thought those two teams could beat the Warriors in a seven-game series.

This year, however, the Warriors have improved on last year's tremendous success with the addition of former Most Valuable Player Kevin Durant. His addition, combined with the fact they did not lose many players from last year's team, is why many people believe this Warriors team is better than last year's.

Before Durant went down for 19 games with an injury at the end of the year, the Warriors were clicking on all cylinders. They were on pace for the third best record in NBA history, trailing only last year's team and the iconic 1996 Chicago Bulls. Including the game where Durant got hurt just two minutes in, the Warriors lost five of their next seven games, showing how pivotal he was to their team.

After losing three in a row, however, the Warriors went on to win 14

straight games, securing their third straight season with 67 or more wins, another NBA record. That run was compounded with the Cleveland Cavaliers' complete collapse during this stretch. From the time of the Durant injury to the end of the regular season, the Cavaliers went 10-14 and lost the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference, a spot they had held all year.

Even the San Antonio Spurs fell off at the end of the year, losing four of their last five games to end the regular season. The combination of the Warriors going on a run and the Cavaliers and Spurs entering slumps is why the Warriors are more favored to win this year than they were last year.

With that being said, the games still must be played, which leaves open the possibility that they lose, because all it takes is one streaky team to knock off a frontrunner like the Warriors. In my opinion, the teams with the best chance to do this are the Los Angeles Clippers, the Houston Rockets and the Boston Celtics.

Los Angeles Clippers: This pick relies on the one thing that has been the Clippers' Achilles Heel ever since they became playoff-relevant again: injuries. It seems like every year, they are one of the best teams in the West, with their dynamic players who match up on paper with any combination of players in the League.

If the Clippers can stay healthy during the playoffs, they could pose a problem for the Warriors. In some respects, the Clippers are the opposite of the Warriors. While the Warriors have no true center (starter Zaza Pachulia averaged only 18 minutes per game during the regular season), the Clippers have one of the best in the League in

DeAndre Jordan.

Draymond Green would be matched up against Jordan most times, and both players would be judged more on their defensive impact than their scoring impact. When it comes to scoring, the spotlight will be on Durant's matchup against Blake Griffin. These two are the stars for their teams and carry the brunt of the scoring responsibilities, though in different manners.

While Durant is a perimeter shooter, Griffin is a post player, so it will be interesting to see how the matchups work out. The Warriors may put Andre Iguodala on Griffin, as

Iguodala is a much more experienced defender. Similarly, the Clippers could put defensive specialist Luc Mbah a Moute on Durant,

though he would be giving up some height to Durant. Regardless of who defends who, the matchup will come down to which scorer can outplay the other.

The final pivotal matchup would be Stephen Curry against Chris Paul, which is probably the most polar matchup of all. Curry is a score-first point guard, who is the only player in NBA history to make over 300 three-pointers in a season (this year was his second time doing it, he made 402 threes last year). Paul, on the other hand, is a pass-first point guard, who has led the NBA in assists four different times. One surprising stat about this matchup is that these two guards have shot the same percentage from three this year.

If the Clippers want to have a chance to beat the Warriors, they must stick to their style of play, and they cannot let the game turn into a perimeter matchup.

Chris Paul must distribute the ball all around, Blake Griffin must find ways to score and Deandre

Jordan must affect shots and grab rebounds.

Houston Rockets: The game plan for the Rockets to beat the Warriors is not nearly as matchup-oriented as the Clippers plan.

For the Rockets to win, they must make their shots. Their offense is built around James Harden, who has become more of a facilitator this year. Harden needs to take over the series to get the Rockets the shots they need to win.

The Rockets have shot as many as 61 three-pointers in a game this year (an NBA record), and while they do not have to take that many three-pointer shots against the Warriors, they have to make a good amount of the ones they do take. They get all the threes through attacking the basket and kicking it out, which all starts with Harden.

The Rockets are probably the only team that can outscore the Warriors, but to do so, Harden must have an MVP-type series. Given his body of work during the regular season, that is more than possible.

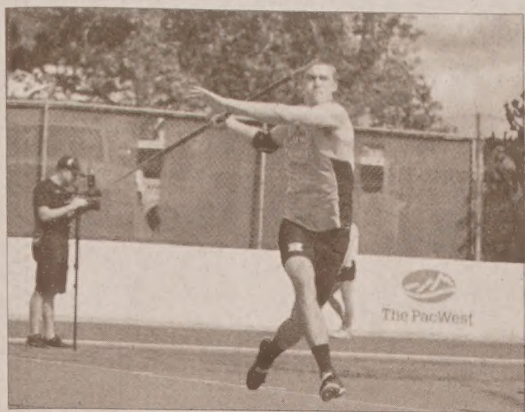
Boston Celtics: The only thing I can logically explain is that the Celtics just win.

They are led by point guard Isaiah Thomas, who had to endure a tragedy before the playoffs started when his sister passed away because of a car accident on Saturday. That tragedy could spur a Celtics rally behind it if they face off against the Warriors.

The team itself consists of many role players and a good mix of young players and veterans. The core has also played together for a few years now, so they understand each other and how to be successful. The Celtics will not play the flashy game that the Warriors play, but that might be just the key to beating the Warriors. The Celtics are the best executing team in the League, and they make the most of their talent. It might just be enough to win them the Championship.

SPORTS

M. and W. Track stun at home invitational



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Andrew Bartnett was named Centennial Athlete of the Week.

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

This past Friday, the men and women of the Hopkins track and field team had a home meet at the Johns Hopkins Invitational. Numerous teams from every division arrived in Baltimore for the Blue Jays' first and only home meet of the year.

Taking advantage of being at home, the Jays posted personal bests and numerous leading Centennial Conference times. The Jays were led by their mid-distance squad, with both the men and women finishing in top positions in the 1500-meter race.

The Jays had 16 women on the start of the 1500-meter race. Five of them captured top eight finishes and posted five of the six top Centennial Conference times.

Sophomore Felicia Koerner led most of the race until she was outrun by University of Maryland senior Alexa Squirini at the very end. Koerner would cross the line in 4:32 to take second, followed by sophomore Tasha Freed in third and junior Caroline Smith in fourth, who ran 4:38 and 4:40, respectively. Notably, Freed beat her previous personal best by over 16 seconds.

Sophomore Gina D'Addario and freshman Rebecca Grusby rounded out the top eight finishers of the race. The Jays' impressive results in the 1500 meter has Hopkins all over the D-III leaderboard. Koerner's time is ranked second in the division. Meanwhile Freed, Smith and D'Addario are ranked 12th, 23rd and 24th, respectively.

Meanwhile, the men had 13 Blue Jays competing in the 1500-meter race. They were led by sophomore Scott Pourshalchi, who finished first overall in a field of 39 runners.

"Being at home definitely contributed to a great race," Pourshalchi said. "There was so much energy and excitement."

He was accompanied by 13 of his teammates and also a rabbit who paced about three-quarters of the race. With 400 meters to go, the rabbit stepped off the track and Pourshalchi knew the win was within reach.

"I probably realized I was going to win with 400 to go," the sophomore said. "I had been so focused on the rabbit that when he dropped I did not even realize no one else was near us. I did not expect the win, because there is always really good competition, but it was a nice surprise."

Pourshalchi crossed the line in first with a new personal best time of 3:54, which ranks fourth in the

Centennial and ninth in D-III. Joining him under the four-minute mark was freshman Ted Oh who finished in 3:59. Junior Brandon Fielder just missed breaking four minutes, crossing the line at 4:00.13.

The Jays had a number of other noticeable performances on the track. Senior Shannon Martello had a breakthrough performance in the 800-meter run, clocking 2:18 and improving on her personal best by over three seconds — not an easy task in a two-lap race.

In the distance events, the women placed three runners in the top five in the 5,000-meter run, led by sophomore Ellie Clawson, who took second in the event and now ranks fourth in the Centennial for the event. In the relay, the 4x400-meter squad of sophomore Hannah Miller, junior Lauren Roberts, freshman Kenz Wilkinson and senior Lindsay Cheu finished second.

As for the men, sophomore Liam Wall led the distance crew in the 5,000-meter race, where he placed second behind American University's Alaeldin Tirba. In the steeplechase, junior Marshall Demaree and freshman Andrew King took second and third. Demaree's time of 9:47 was the best by a Hopkins athlete this season and ranks fourth in the Centennial.

The performances on the field were equally as exciting for the Jays. Sophomore Benjamin Huang took the title in the pole vault, while junior Matt Fischetti took third. Senior Mitchell Keller threw the shot put a distance of 13.99 meters, the best by a Jay this season, for a seventh place finish. His throw ranks seventh in program history and fourth in the Centennial.

"We were overall really happy with the meet," Pourshalchi said. "We did a great job showing our team spirit and had a lot of great performances."

While the Jays enjoyed the advantage of running on their home track and the advantage of limited travel, senior Andrew Bartnett did not get to enjoy the convenience of competing at home. While the rest of the Jays traveled a mere mile to their meet, Bartnett travelled 3,000 miles to compete in the decathlon at the Mt. SAC Relays/CA Invitational Multi Events.

After one day of competition, Bartnett stood in ninth, but after taking first in both the pole vault and the javelin on day two, the senior jumped to fourth, finishing with a total of 6625 points. For these efforts, Bartnett was honored as the Centennial Conference Field Athlete of the Week.

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

After a heartbreaking defeat by the Emory Eagles on Friday, the men's tennis team triumphed in two 8-1 victories against the Haverford College Fords and the Christopher Newport University Captains on Saturday.

With their number one player, senior Mike Buxbaum, out due to injury, the Jays' performance this weekend was truly a team effort.

The weekend also marked a number of career milestones for the Jays. In their victory against Haverford, Coach Chuck Willenborg earned his 200th career win and further fortified his status as winningest coach in program history.

Meanwhile, senior Emerson Walsh garnered his 100th career win in the match against Christopher Newport. As one of just 13 players in Hopkins history to achieve the 100-win feat, we welcome Walsh into *Colwell's Court* as this

week's Athlete of the Week.

Walsh has been an integral part of the Hopkins tennis teams for the past four years. A three-time recipient of Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American Honors for doubles play, Walsh has won the ITA Southeast Doubles Championship every year since 2014 and has continuously placed in the top 10 at the ITA National Small College Championship.

Walsh's singles play has been equally dominant. Known for his ability to maintain winning streaks, last spring he lost just one singles match from April 6 to May 13.

This Friday, Walsh contributed a key win in singles play over Emory sophomore James Spaulding. He went on to go 3-0 on Saturday in the matches against Haverford and Christopher Newport, winning a doubles match versus Haverford 6-4, a doubles match versus Christopher Newport 8-3 and a singles victory versus Christopher Newport 6-1, 6-1.

Subsequently, Walsh

was honored as the Centennial Conference Men's Tennis Player of the Week for the second time in his career.

Following these accolades, Walsh sat down with *The News-Letter* to discuss what the weekend meant to him and his goals as he wraps up the final season of his Hopkins career.

The News-Letter: How did it feel to earn your 100th career win?

Emerson Walsh: It honestly does not mean too much to me, I never had a goal in mind for number of wins, but it is cool to say.

N-L: Do you prefer playing doubles or singles and why?

EW: I have always enjoyed doubles a little more than singles. The points are quicker and more intense.

N-L: After playing Haverford, how tired was the team going into the Christopher Newport match?

EW: We were all pretty tired, especially after having a match on Friday against Emory.

Everyone still managed to step up and play well though.

N-L: What will you be focusing on in practice this week to prepare for Wednesday's match



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Emerson Walsh.

against the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats?

EW: Nothing special, same routine.

N-L: What will you miss most about the Hopkins tennis team?

EW: It has been a great group. I have loved competing with them.

N-L: Any personal or team goals for the remainder of the season?

EW: My goal is for us to make the Elite Eight of NCAAs.

We have managed to get there the past three years. At that point in the tournament, anyone can win, so right now our first goal is to get back there and get another shot at winning the whole thing. Hopefully, our entire lineup will be back and healthy for NCAAs.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Emerson Walsh
Year: Senior
Sport: Tennis
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Louisville, Ky.
High School: Trinity

Don't subsidize billionaire stadium owners



Andrew Johnson
Comrade's Corner

Over a month ago, the Oakland Raiders were given approval by the NFL's owners in a 31-1 vote to relocate to Las Vegas, Nevada at the start of the 2019 season. Up until this season, a NFL team had not moved since 1999, when the Houston Oilers packed up their bags and shipped off to Tennessee to become the Titans. But after a period of relative stability, the Raiders were the third NFL relocation in the past calendar year.

Before the start of last season, the NFL announced that the St. Louis Rams would be leaving St. Louis and returning to Los Angeles immediately for the start of 2016. Furthermore, in January of this year, the San Diego Chargers ended a decade long stadium dispute when they announced they were moving in with the Rams.

All three of the moves were precipitated by one issue, quite simply the League and the entirety of our society: money, specifically, the amount of public financing that each city would be willing to dish out to fund a new stadium. When the Raiders returned to Oakland in 1995, city taxpayers funded a \$200 million dollar renovation project on the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

Nevertheless, despite

these renovations, Raiders owner Mark Davis quickly soured on the condition of the stadium and demanded that the cash-strapped city provide additional public financing for a new stadium.

Even though Oakland still owes \$95 million on the Coliseum improvements, the Oakland City Council approved a last ditch proposal to keep the team in the Bay Area. The city agreed to provide \$350 million in public financing for a 1.3 billion dollar stadium on the site of the existing Coliseum.

But it was already too late. The Raiders had reached agreement on the preliminary construction of a \$1.9 billion stadium in Las Vegas, which includes an astounding \$750 million in public revenue. Ultimately the NFL owners ruled that the Oakland counter proposal was inadequate.

The Silver and Black are departing the Bay Area for the second time, leaving behind thousands of loyal and devastated fans who have supported the team since its AFL days almost a half century ago.

Sports franchises are embedded within the culture and livelihood of a city. They are beacons of regional and statewide pride and a core aspect of a city's identity. Many enter the fandom for their regional team on the day they are born. I was just days old when my first baby photo was taken, and I was already sporting my blue and red New York Giants bib.

Fandom defies rationality. We owe nothing to these teams, and deep down, we know that they do not care about us nearly as much as we can possibly care about them. There are millions of Gi-

ants fans in the New York metropolitan area.

If I turned off my TV, stopped buying jerseys and never went to another game in my life, the Giants would not miss me. These teams and their owners have proven what it is that they solely care about: profit. After all, the League is a business, and teams make business decisions.

By all means, the Raiders' move is a slam dunk for the franchise; Las Vegas is a rapidly growing metropolis and has long been regarded as the entertainment capital of the world. But I feel for those fans.

These fans stood with the Raiders as they posted 14 straight losing seasons between 2003 and 2016. Oakland approved hundreds of millions of dollars for stadium improvements after the team had already packed up and abandoned them once again; abandoned the city that would do anything, even approve hundreds of millions of dollars in financing for a new stadium while still owing nearly \$100 million on their last stadium deal, just to keep the Raiders in Oakland.

No differently, Las Vegas, that has 18 percent of residents living in poverty

and continues to grapple with high unemployment, was willing to give a billionaire owner hundreds of millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, that money could be used to fund infrastructure

improvements, schools and public parks.

These cities continue to display such a willingness to give wealthy franchise owners hundreds of millions because of promises that the projects will create jobs and bring in revenue.

Numerous studies have shown that this is blatantly false. Stanford economist Roger Noll concluded that NFL stadiums do not generate substantial economic growth, because they provide a small number of jobs relative to their cost and do not host many events per year.

As long as cities like Las Vegas are willing to spend hundreds of millions in taxpayer money for stadiums, small market cities will run the risk of losing their beloved teams. NFL owners would be foolish to decline the subsidies if they are offered to them, but our cities should realize that these billionaires are fully capable of footing a new stadium bill on their own.

My heart aches for Oakland, St. Louis and San Diego. Though Las Vegas now has a NFL team to call their own, what will the arrival of the Raiders cost the city and its residents?



COURTESY OF ANDREW JOHNSON
Johnson is a long-time fan of the New York Giants.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Hopkins will be hosting the 2019, 2020 and 2022 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship tournaments at Homewood Field. The Jays previously hosted the Championship in 2001.

CALENDAR

Friday:
Baseball vs. Franklin & Marshall;
3:30 p.m.
Track @ Widener Invitational

Saturday:
W. Lax @ Ohio State; 10:45 a.m.
M & W Tennis @ Ursinus; 1 p.m.
M. Lax vs. Michigan; 2 p.m.

In AL East, O's soar while Jays sputter



Daniel Landy
DanLand

Last year's American League Wild Card Game was the latest epic chapter in the storied rivalry between the Baltimore Orioles and the Toronto Blue Jays. Going into the 2016 season, the O's and Jays were both fresh off ending their respective division title droughts.

Baltimore won the American League East in 2014 for the first time since 1997 and Toronto finished atop the division in 2015 for the first time since 1993. In 2016, both teams were neck and neck throughout the season.

During the season, in which eight one-run games were played between the two teams, the Blue Jays edged the Orioles 10-9 in the season series. Ultimately, the teams finished with identical 89-73 records, setting up one final, winner-take-all showdown in the Wild Card game.

The Blue Jays won the game in an emphatic fashion behind a walk-off three-run blast from now former Blue Jay Edwin Encarnación to end Baltimore's season. Entering 2017, the two teams were once again expected to duel throughout the season.

However, their early starts this year have been polar opposites. Baltimore is arguably off to the best start in the Majors, while the Blue Jays are off to the worst start. In large part,

these contrasting starts are a product of the games that the two teams have gone head-to-head in already this season. The O's and Jays have faced off six times, with the Orioles having won five of those games.

Are these hot and cold starts indicative of things to come, or will Baltimore's fate end as abruptly as it did last year?

To start, the Orioles have entered this season with a bang. As of April 17, the O's are atop the Majors with an 8-3 record through 11 games, all of which have been against division opponents. The biggest question mark for Baltimore going into the season was undoubtedly its starting rotation.

The team's ace, Chris Tillman, began the season and remains on the disabled list with a shoulder injury that will hold him out until at least May. Behind Tillman, Kevin Gausman and Dylan Bundy were yet to reach their potentials as the number four overall picks in the 2011 and 2012

drafts, respectively. With regard to the back of the rotation, uncertainty and inconsistency were widely anticipated.

Despite doubts

Baltimore is... off to the best start in the majors, while the Blue Jays are off to the worst start.

about the rotation, the starting pitchers have held their own. Gausman and Bundy have been consistent and are finally pitching like the top-end hurlers they had been touted as. Wade Miley has also performed well, allowing no runs in his first outing.

The one weak link has to be Ubaldo Jiménez, who has allowed five runs in each of his first two starts. Jiménez must regroup and perform well during his next several outings; Otherwise, manager Buck Showalter will replace him with someone who he thinks is

SEE MLB, PAGE B10

M. and W. Track dominate Hopkins Invitational



The Hopkins men's and women's track teams played host to a number of schools over the weekend at the Hopkins Invitational. This is the one event during the spring semester that the Jays host within the friendly confines of the Homewood campus, and it has come to be regarded as a "PR day" due to the familiarity that the athletes have with the course. The women's team captured five of the top eight positions in the 1500-meter, while three Jays also placed within the top five of the 5000-meter. For the men's team, athletes were able to claim both second and third in the steeplechase and first place in the pole vault. Senior Andrew Barnett participated in the Mt. SAC Relays, where he finished fourth in the decathlon and was named Centennial Conference Track Athlete of the Week.

B10

INSIDE

NBA Playoffs: Teams that can challenge Warriors

Gregory Melick breaks down the Golden State Warriors' season and talks about the three teams with the best shot at taking them down as the NBA playoffs commence. Can the Warriors be stopped? PAGE B10

NFL: Raiders relocate to Las Vegas

Andrew Johnson discusses the Oakland Raiders' move to Las Vegas, offering insight into the stadium financing process and why public funding for stadium construction often does not pay off for cities. PAGE B11

Cohell's Court: Emerson Walsh

This week, *The News-Letter* highlights senior Emerson Walsh, who won his 100th career match during the victories over Christopher Newport and Haverford over the weekend. PAGE B11

INSIDE

Baseball sweeps Fords away in doubleheader

By ESTHER HONG
Staff Writer

The Blue Jays swept the Haverford Fords in their season's final doubleheader on Babb Field, finishing the day with a walk-off hit by senior catcher Ryan Orgielewicz.

"Yesterday's games were maybe the two biggest wins we've had this season. Haverford is our biggest rival, and it's a great feeling to be able to beat them twice," senior shortstop Conor Reynolds said. "We lost four times to Haverford last year, so both games were really statement wins."

In their first game of the day, the Jays quickly generated momentum, scoring four runs in the first inning. On the second pitch of the game, Reynolds hit a home run out to left field. Following the home run, Haverford's pitcher Tom Phillips walked senior outfielder Brian Lin and junior third baseman Mike Smith.

Freshman infielder Mike Eberle hit a single to send Lin home, and senior first baseman Daniel Albert hit a sacrifice fly to score Smith. Next to bat was senior outfielder Jon Hayden, who hit a single to send Eberle to score.

The Fords came back with fire in the second and third inning, scoring five runs and grabbing the lead from Hopkins. Despite the deficit, the Blue Jays didn't let the score faze them. The Jays quickly tied up the game at 5-5 after a home run by Hayden.

Unfortunately, Haverford outfielder Thomas Vollaro, in an attempt to catch Hayden's ball, caught his leg in the fence while jumping, re-

sulting in a serious injury and a delay of game.

Despite this delay of game, Hopkins stayed engaged. In the fourth inning, Lin reached home on a walk, and Smith hit the third home run of the game just over the left field fence. The Blue Jays improved the score to 7-5. In the fifth inning, Haverford scored an unearned run, making the score 7-6.

The Jays, who are known for their sixth-inning scoring streaks, further established this reputation by scoring three runs in the top of the sixth inning. Reynolds worked a walk and stole both second and third. Smith hit a double to send Reynolds to score.

With Smith and Orgielewicz on base, Eberle hit a double to send Smith home. Albert then grounded out but gave Orgielewicz enough time to slide into home.

Both Hopkins and Haverford added a run for their teams, and the final score was 11-7.

In the second game of the day, the Fords came out on top during the first couple innings. The Blue Jays got on the scorebook in the second inning after Eberle hit a sacrifice fly to send Smith scoring. Haverford led 2-1.

The Fords continued to score in the seventh inning, making the score 4-1. Despite the Fords' recent scoring success, the Jays fought back with their own offensively strong seventh inning.

After two ground outs, senior outfielder Tommy Mee hit a single to keep the inning going. Sophomore outfielder Tim Kutcher, who went three for three on the day,

recorded his third hit. Reynolds worked another walk to make the bases loaded. Lin followed with another walk, sending Mee home, and Smith hit a single, giving his team two more runs. The game was tied at 4-4.

"I think the biggest moment of the day was Smith's two-RBI single in the seventh inning to tie the game," Reynolds said.

Sophomore pitcher Harrison Folk subbed in for junior starting pitcher Alex Ross. Folk faced the minimum number of batters in the eighth and struck out two batters in the ninth. Sophomore pitcher John Donohue went into the game and finished the top of the ninth with the final out.

In the bottom of the ninth, Lin singled to left field, Smith was hit by a pitch and Orgielewicz hit the walk-off single to send Lin home, winning the game for the Blue Jays against last season's Centennial Conference Champions. The final score was 5-4.

Defensively, pitchers Ross, Folk and Donohue

did not walk a batter in the second game of the day, marking the sixth game of the season where Hopkins did not surrender a walk.

On offense, Orgielewicz recorded his fifth walk-off victory of the season. Additionally, Reynolds became the fifth Blue Jay in program history to record 200 career hits. After his three hits against the Fords, two of which were home runs, Reynolds sits at 201 hits.

Hopkins continues to hold first place in the Centennial Conference, improving their record to 9-1.

"The two wins yesterday extended our lead in the Conference to two games and moved us even closer to hosting the tournament," Reynolds said. "Every conference game has been a battle. I'm extremely proud of the way our team has fought and found ways to win."

The Jays face off against the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats next. Their second matchup with the Diplomats will be on Friday, April 21 on Babb Field at Stromberg Stadium.



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Conor Reynolds hit a home run to lead off the game against Haverford.

M. Lax fights off late Penn State comeback

By BRANDON WOLFE
For The News-Letter

Rebounding from a tough loss to Big Ten foe Ohio State last weekend, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team was able to hang on after a second half offensive surge by the Penn State University (PSU) Nittany Lions to emerge victorious in front of a packed crowd at Homewood Field.

The Blue Jays were able to get off to a hot start very early on, as senior midfielder Cody Radziewicz found the back of the net to kick off the scoring for Hopkins. Grant Ament would be the one to start off the

scoring for the Nittany Lions, with some help from an assist by Nick Aponte, taking advantage of a man-up opportunity after sophomore attacker Kyle Marr was called for unnecessary roughness.

Senior midfielder John Crawley followed up the PSU goal nearly 30 seconds later to give the Blue Jays back the lead at 2-1. Matt Florence would tie the game for PSU at two goals apiece.

The Blue Jays would end the half with two straight goals coming from attackers freshman Forry Smith and junior Shack Stanwick, as the first 15 minutes ended with Hopkins in

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